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Hafa Adai!

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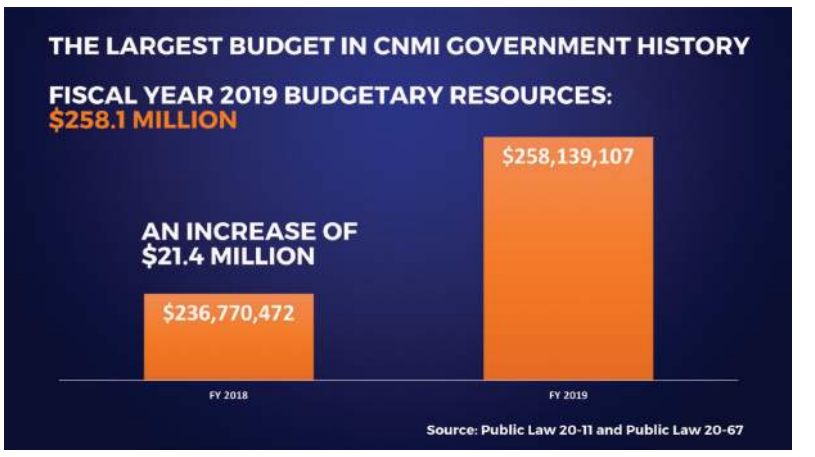
75¢

Record $258M budget enacted

JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, left, signs the CNMI government's fiscal year 2019 budget while Youth Takeover Day governor Hannah Santos looks on yesterday at the Office of the Governor conference room.



By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

» CHCC, PSS get lion's share

Pegged at a record-busting $258,139,107, the Commonwealth government enacted yesterday what is being touted as the largest budget in the history of the Commonwealth

House Bill 20-173, Senate Substitute 1, Conference Committee Substitute 1 goes into the books as Public Law 20-67, or the CNMI Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2019, after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed the bill into law, with a comfortable margin of three days before the new fiscal

See BUDGET on Page 4

MHS alumna dreams big

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Flying kites in the nearly crystal-clear nights of Tanapag was the lit match that sparked a dream in the mind of Lean Teodoro—a feat that she thought would only stay a dream—until a few months ago, when she completed an internship program at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Jet Propulsion Laboratory last summer.

"My interest in space is rooted in those kiting nights at the beach in Tanapag. My dad taught my sister and I how to make kites out of co-

See MHS on Page 4

Marianas High School alumna Lean Teodoro just completed an internship program at NASA last summer representing the CNMI "My interest in space is rooted from those kiting nights at the beach in Tanapag…and time with friends when we would drive to the north side of the island late at night to go to Banzai and Suicide cliffs to stargaze."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Crisostomo now blames lawyers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Joseph Acosta Crisostomo, who was sentenced to life in prison for the kidnapping, rape, and killing of a female bartender, now claims ineffective assistance of counsel, blaming it for allegedly leading to his convictions.

» Defendant sues DOC, DOC Commissioner Attao

In a handwritten petition for habeas corpus addressed to Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja, Crisostomo is accusing his lawyer, Janet H. King, and co-counsels of providing him ineffective assistance. He is also suing Corrections Commissioner Vincent S. Attao.

See CRISOSTOMO on Page 4

Lawmakers' salaries kept at $39K —for now

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja released yesterday the written joint agreement that would keep lawmakers' salary at $39,000 per annum until January 2019 or until a new salary increase

See SALARIES on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
An old calendar was presented by Brett Kavanaugh as an alibi against an allegation of sex assault.

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SCIENCE & TECH
Facebook brings virtual reality to the masses with a headset called Quest.

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LIFE & STYLE
Ben Robinson has some hacks involving your favorite, foamy beverage.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Tinian senatorial candidate pleads not guilty to DUI

Tinian senatorial candidate Eric Henry Cruz San Nicolas pleaded not guilty to driving under the influence of alcohol.

San Nicolas, who was arrested in July 28, pleaded not guilty during his arraignment hearing on Aug. 30, 2018 that was filed at the Superior Court on Sept. 7, 2018.

San Nicolas is adamant about keeping his promise to fight the citation in court because he claims the DUI allegations against him are false.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho ordered San Nicolas to return to court on Oct. 18, 2018, for a status conference where he will be represented by assistant public defender Jean Nogues.

San Nicolas, a former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board member, is an independent candidate for a Tinian Senate seat.

San Nicolas is among four other Tinian independent candidates who submitted petitions for nomination for Senate and House of Representatives seats.

In a previous article, Department of Public Safety spokesperson Jacqueline Rae stated that a woman called the department back in July 28 about a theft incident involving San Nicolas but when officers arrived at the scene, San Nicolas was not there.

Rae said San Nicolas returned a short time later and returned the items to the woman.

Rae said police officers, however, cited San Nicolas with DUI at that time.

Rae said the incident happened in Koblerville at 1:23am. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

30-year suspended sentence vs Hillbroom

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Junior Larry Imeong Hillbroom was slapped a total of 30 years imprisonment, all suspended, for violation of his probation in two cases on Tuesday in Palau.

Mark B. Hanson, counsel for Hillbroom in his legal malpractice lawsuit, submitted Wednesday a copy of the sentencing order before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau Trial Division Associate Justice Lourdes F. Materne sentenced Hillbroom in one case to five years in prison, with credit for 154 days of time served.

Materne also sentenced Hillbroom to 25 years in prison with credit for 94 days of time served.

The associate justice said that Hillbroom's incarceration is suspended with the conditions that he will complete a rehabilitation program of at least six months and sign a waiver that would give the Probation Office access to his records.

The other conditions include drug testing prior to his departure from Palau and drug testing on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for the first six months after completing his rehabilitation.

A missed test, failure to provide a sample, or an unadulterated sample shall be treated as positive drug tests and results in his immediate incarceration.

Hillbroom was convicted in Palau last June and was slapped with a 10-year supervised probation.

Materne said the 10 years of supervised probation shall be reduced to seven years provided Hillbroom successfully completes a rehabilitation program.

Materne said Hillbroom shall serve five years in jail if he fails to complete the rehabilitation program.

Pursuant to a plea deal, Hillbroom pleaded "no contest" to conspiracy to trafficking a controlled substance—methamphetamine.

In return, the Palau government dropped the remaining three counts in the two cases.

Materne sentenced Hillbroom pursuant to the agreement and ordered him to pay a $50,000 fine to be deducted from the bond posted, with the remainder returned to the poster.

The associate justice said incarceration shall commence on Sept. 25, 2018, unless Hillbroom has entered the rehabilitation program.

Many other conditions were imposed on Hillbroom.

Hillbroom was arrested in October 2017 in Palau for allegedly trafficking methamphetamine or "ice."

Hillbroom was released in August 2017 after serving a 60-day prison sentence in Palau for pleading guilty to an escape charge.

Hillbroom filed a legal malpractice suit in District Court against his former lawyer, Barry Israel and Guam lawyer David J. Lujan.

Early in 2017, Hillbroom pleaded guilty to a lesser included offense of escape in the second degree before the Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau Trial Division and was slapped with a 60-day prison term.

He was recaptured in Palau hours after he escaped from police's custody on Feb. 9, 2016, just a few hours after he was arrested over the seizure of $160,000 worth of methamphetamine or "ice."

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of the late business tycoon and DHL co-founder Larry Lee Hillblom.

Hillbroom's name is spelled differently from DHL co-founder Hillblom.

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Alipay, WeChat Pay seen to boost tourist spending

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two ranking members of the local House of Representatives welcomed the idea of the CNMI being able to take advantage of the growing popularity of third-party payment tools, especially for the Chinese tourist market.

Reps. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) and Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) see the potential of mobile payment systems such as Alipay and WeChat Pay being used by restaurants, shops, and other business establishments that cater to foreign tourists.

Affinity Solutions Inc. representatives Todd Jakl, Tina Tudela, and Robert Canos met with Blanco, Deleon Guerrero, and eight other House members to learn more about the service offered by the Guam-based marketing firm.

AFI is looking to further widen the scope of Alipay and WeChat Pay in the CNMI. Alipay and WeChat Pay are two mobile and online payment platforms in China. WeChat Pay is considered the leading payment system being used by more than 600 million.

Reps. Alice S. Igitol (R-Saipan), Francisco C. Aguon (R-Saipan), Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), Donald C. Barcinas (R-Saipan), Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan), and Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) were also in the meeting.

Blanco, who is the House Commerce and Tourism Committee vice chair, told *Saipan Tribune* that this has been a growing trend in the growing Chinese outbound tourists who now prefer to use credit cards or other payment schemes rather than cash.

"This is an opportunity to encourage visitor spending in the CNMI," said Blanco, who presided over the meeting on behalf of committee chair Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) who had to attend to prior commitments.

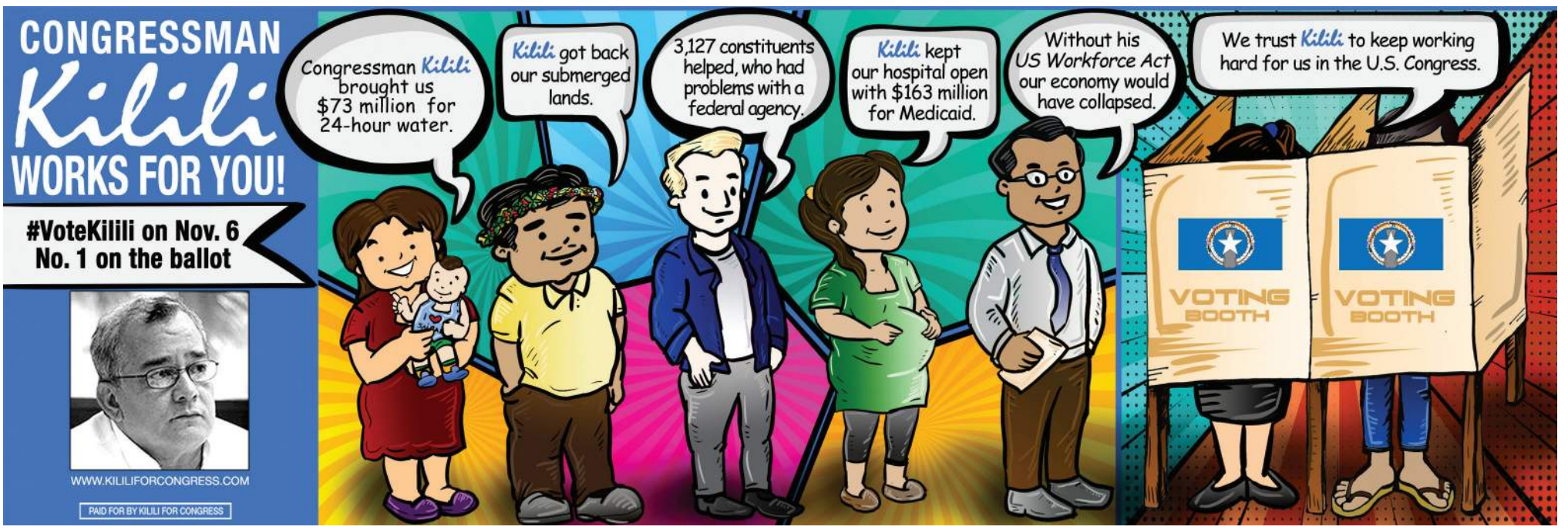
"Through these online payment portals, Chinese tourists find it easier to spend and purchase locally rather than carrying cash or credit cards," he added.

Blanco cited a study made by Chinese English language newspaper *China Daily/Asia Weekly* that a large part of Chinese income earners prefer to use third-party payment tools.

"According to *China Daily/Asia Weekly*, 87.4 percent of Chinese income earners prefer using Alipay, WeChat Pay, and other third-party payment tools as their method of payment. They also see an ever-increasing use of these methods in the leisure and travel sector," said Blanco.

"House Commerce and Tourism chair Leepan [Guerrero] sees this as an opportunity for our local vendors to capitalize on these payment methods and capture more visitor dollars. As we all know, increased spending..supports our tax base," he added.

Deleon Guerrero, who is one of the senior members of the House, told *Saipan Tribune* that the new payment system could prevent abuse and other fraudulent transactions. "This is very popular in China. The good thing is, it can be tracked because it funnels the revenues to U.S. banks. So, I support this kind of system."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CRISOSTOMO

From Page 1

The Superior Court received Crisostomo's petition last Sept. 19.

Naraja on Friday assigned the case to himself. Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho presided over Crisostomo's trial.

On Tuesday, Naraja directed the Department of Corrections and Attao to provide a certification why Crisostomo is in detention. Naraja set the order to show cause hearing for Oct. 9, 2018, at 9am.

Last July, the CNMI Supreme Court affirmed Crisostomo's convictions in killing Emerita R. Romero. In a 39-page opinion, the high court justices noted that even after omitting errors in Camacho's rulings in the case, numerous evidence remain.

Crisostomo

Crisostomo, through King, appealed his convictions, claiming numerous deficiencies before and during trial.

In his lawsuit against Attao, Crisostomo asked Naraja for a lawyer who would review his petition and appeal.

Crisostomo said that King made several mistakes during pre-trial and jury trial.

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting comments from King.

He said that, after the jury found him guilty on all charges, King told him not to worry because she and her co-counsels from Guam, F. Randall Cunliffe and Jeffrey Moots, are going to file an appeal to the CNMI Supreme Court.

He said King told him that Camacho made a lot of errors during the trial.

Crisostomo said his lawyers messed up, mostly in his appeal brief.

He said he told King months before the trial that he wants to testify, but she told him it is better for him not to take the stand.

"This is the reason why the jury and court convicted me on all charges," he said.

Crisostomo said in the footnote of the high court's decision, the justices clearly state that his briefing is littered with violations of NMI Supreme Court rules, conclusory statements, underwhelming legal arguments, and misstatements of the law.

He said Camacho denied his desire to have a DNA expert testify in his defense.

On April 24, 2014, a jury pronounced the then-40-year-old Crisostomo guilty of first degree murder, kidnapping, sexual assault in the first degree, and robbery.

On May 28, 2014, Camacho sentenced Crisostomo to life imprisonment.

Romero, 37, was last seen boarding a car near her house in Garapan in the early morning hours of Feb. 5, 2012. She was supposed to meet her boyfriend in Chalan Piao. Two days later, Federal Bureau of Investigation agents found her body in a small bathroom at the abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Roque/As Matuis. Autopsy revealed she was beaten and strangled with a pair of leggings.

BUDGET

From Page 1

year starts on Oct. 1.

The CNMI government identified total budgetary resources of $258,139,107 for fiscal year 2019, which is almost $11.2 million higher than the $247 million budget for fiscal year 1997 at the height of the Commonwealth's twin economic sources—the garment and tourism industries.

The fiscal year 2019 budget, including earmarks, increased by $21.4 million from the last fiscal year of $236.77 million.

A total of $171,589,677 in revenues and resources is now ready for appropriation to fund the CNMI government's operations, up by almost $26.4 million from the $145.2 million in the previous fiscal year.

P.L. 20-66 has allocated $44 million for the retirees' settlement covering the 75 percent that's mandated by the CNMI Settlement Fund or for the minimum annual payment of the benefits of the settlement class members. Another $11.8 million is appropriated for the additional 25 percent for all retirees, completing 100 percent of their pension.

The CNMI Settlement Fund is also expected to receive an additional $11,534,522 from the supplemental budget bill (H.B. 20-187, House Draft 2) that the Senate passed yesterday.

Torres, after signing the bill in front of some members of the Legislature and students that participated in the Youth Takeover Day, said that signing the budget bill early means there won't be any government shutdown.

"The important thing is making sure that the government would continue to operate" he said.

Education will be getting a total of $51 million, with the CNMI State Public School System allocated $43.2 million, which is 29.8 percent of the budgetary resources available for appropriation.

The Northern Marianas College will receive $5.4 million, while $2.4 million is reserved for the CNMI Scholarship Office.

PSS and NMC are also expected to receive a total of $7.2 million from H.B. 20-187 that is now headed to Torres for signing.

"On top of what the budget has given, we are giving more to accommodate those who are definitely a priority," Torres said. "We continue to make sure that our youth, *manhoben*, that we give you a better government."

The local government subsidy to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. also increased by $3.5 million, with the Medical Referral funding up by $594,887. CHCC has an almost $74 million funding from P.L. 20-67.

Comments

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), the House Ways and Means Committee chair, said the budget is a reflection of how far the Commonwealth has come. "It is a reflection of the progress of our economy but, most of all, it is a reflection—of the conference committee product—of your legislators and our willingness to cooperate and collaborate for the good of the Commonwealth."

"The governor had 20 days to review it but was only given 10 days. We thank you, governor, for your swift action. For the people of the Commonwealth, there will be no shutdown."

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Demapan's counterpart and the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chairman, said the budget process makes the Legislature aware of what the government needs to prioritize.

"We're proud to say that as a result of this compromise legislation, the highest budget enacted, we took care of PSS—$47 million from the general appropriation and outside sources. Took care of CHCC—almost $10 million also from the general appropriations and outside sources, and include $2 million for uncompensated care."

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) said the budget shows the continued progress of the CNMI. "I also understand that there are some entities that are underfunded, but rest assured that the Legislature would continue to find other funding sources to address those needs. The appropriation funding is forthcoming."

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) added the budget process have been difficult sometimes. "It is because of disagreements of the 29 members of the Legislature but, at the end of the day…we…make sure we enact a bill to operate the government. Every year, it is a compromise."

"Compromise is something that not everybody is happy with…but we are obligated to pass a budget. Otherwise we shut down the government. I know some departments may feel they are shortchanged and some feel very happy."

SALARIES

From Page 1

recommendation is made.

Last Wednesday, the Superior Court resumed proceedings in the *Manibusan v. Larson* case and determined whether the 80-percent salary increase for lawmakers should be deemed void from the very beginning (starting from the salary increases enacted in Public Law 4-32) or prospectively.

The Superior Court deemed the salary increase void from the very beginning, starting from the salary increases enacted in Public Law 4-32. That would leave lawmakers with salaries of just $8,000 per annum.

During the proceeding of the case, the Department of Finance and the Office of the Attorney General came to an agreement to keep the current lawmakers' salaries at $39,000 per annum until January 2019 instead of immediately cutting the salary of lawmakers to $8,000 per annum.

According to the stipulation, Finance Secretary Larissa Larson is permanently enjoined from making any salary adjustments pursuant to Public Law 19-83 (the 80-percent pay hike).

The stipulation also states that if a new advisory commission is not established by the second week of January 2019 and a new salary increase is not recommended, the secretary of Finance is ordered to reduce salary payments for members of the 21st CNMI Legislature to $8,000 per annum.

The parties also agreed that from and after the second Monday of January 2019, the Finance secretary is permanently enjoined from paying legislative salaries pursuant to either P.L. 4-32 or P.L. 7- 31. The current legislative salary is pursuant to P.L. 7-31.

Lastly, the parties agreed that the advisory commission would base its next salary increase recommendations on the difference between an accepted composite price index for the period between January 1978 and the date of the recommendation.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the CNMI Supreme Court ruled last Aug. 30 that the 80-percent pay hike enacted through P.L. 19-83 violates the CNMI Constitution by failing to provide the requirements needed to enact a legislative pay hike.

After reviewing the petitions of both parties involved in the *Manibusan v. Larson* case, the Supreme Court ruled that the legislative increase enacted by P.L. 19-83 (as well as previous public laws enacting legislative salary hikes) was unconstitutional because it contravened at least one of the mandates in Section 10 of the CNMI Constitution.

MHS

From Page 1

conut midrib, plastic bags, and sewing threads. Those nights where the night sky was crystal clear filled with stars was beautiful, but there was this one special night when the moon was absolutely amazing that I couldn't stop staring it for hours. Since that night, [my interest] in human space exploration began," she said.

Teodoro, a Marianas High School alumna, said the NASA internship program gave her the opportunity to work with near-earth objects, i.e., meteoroids, asteroids, or comets, "which I thought was pretty cool because it was something I have never been exposed to before…It was also a great learning experience for me, having to do research that is not in my field."

Teodoro is currently in her last year at the University of Hawaii at Manoa pursuing a bachelor's degree in Geology and Geophysics. "Since I moved to Hawaii on my own, I went seeking out for all the opportunities I could to get my hands on at NASA. I realized how amazing UH-Manoa is, especially the strong and encouraging network of my school (School of Ocean, Earth Sciences and Technology or SOEST).

"I've been linked to my first research mentor, Heather Kaluna, through a mentoring program called Maile Mentoring Bridge Program, where they bring in underrepresented students and pair them with a mentor. Since then, Heather has been one of the people who has made a huge impact in my undergrad career. Without her, I would not have landed a research fellowship for the NASA Hawaii Space Consortium for three semesters and…an internship at a place I have always wanted to work at, that is NASA JPL," she added.

Her time in the internship program not only taught Teodoro more of science but also a good philosophy about life. "One of the greatest things I have learned and realized was that life is all about connections," she said. "Almost all the friends I have made at NASA JPL came in through a connection and my successes in college were all through connections. I reached out to every possible individual who I thought could help me pave my career path and you'd be surprised at how many nice people there are in this world who really care and would help you reach that goal of yours, especially if you are a minority and a woman pursuing a career in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics," she added.

Her journey has not been a walk in the park. "The greatest challenge since I moved out here was money. Oahu is an expensive place to live but I knew how strong their connections with NASA was and so I went for it. I had to take out student loans but I don't regret any of it and I believe that it was probably the best investment I had in my life."

"When I took my first physics and chemistry class, I was so lost compared to most of my peers who already had the opportunity to learn these things but I pushed through. I knew the field that I was going to get into would be hard because of the lack of STEM teachers during my high school days, but I always told myself that there is always room for improvement," she added.

Science is definitely in Teodoro's future but, in the meantime, she wants to be an encourager to CNMI students who like her, have big dreams.

"To my whole CNMI family, I know how scary it feels at just the mere thought of leaving home and going into the unknown, not knowing what to expect. I knew the feeling of being comfortable, safe, and secure if I just stayed on Saipan, but the hardships I have gone through since moving to Hawaii and transitioning into this new life, I do not regret one thing," she said.

"There are opportunities out there waiting for you—it can be opportunities to pursue a field you've always wanted to do or a place you have always wanted to travel or a new culture you've always wanted to explore but, more importantly, opportunities for you to grow, to learn new things that will completely change your life for the better. We may come from a small island, but this doesn't define us and our goals in life."

US govt provides Mayor Atalig with over 5,000 pages

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. government has provided over 5,000 pages of documents to Rota Mayor M. Atalig, who is facing a wire fraud case.

As this developed, Atalig, through counsel David G. Banes, requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to give him more time to review the materials.

Banes moved the court to continue the trial to Oct. 30, 2018, instead of the Oct. 16, 2018, that is currently set.

The lawyer also asked the court to re-set to Oct. 10, 2018, the deadline for filing pre-trial motions instead of Sept. 19, 2018 that is currently set.

Banes said majority of the 5,000 pages of documents were produced just recently after the last status conference and merely a week before the current deadline for filing pre-trial motions.

He said there might be additional discovery according to the prosecution.

Given the large volume of documents produced in discovery and the fact that a large part of the events underlying the charge occurred outside Saipan (either on Rota or on Guam), and many potential witnesses do not live on Saipan, more time is needed for trial preparation, Banes said.

The preparation, he said, includes document review, interviews of potential witnesses, investigation of facts, and collection of evidence.

Banes said he has already talked with the lawyer for the U.S. government, who stated he would not oppose the continuance.

A federal grand jury indicted the 58-year-old Atalig after he allegedly arranged a government-funded trip from Rota to Guam for himself and 12 others, including eight municipal employees, on an allegedly false claim that he was going to check for surplus equipment here when he actually went to participate in a partisan political rally last June 23 in Mangilao.

The indictment charged the mayor with only one count of wire fraud. He had pleaded not guilty.

Atalig is facing another case that the Office of the Attorney General filed before the Superior Court arising from the same political rally.

In the Superior Court case, Atalig and seven other Rota municipal officials are being charged each with theft and misconduct in public office. Their arraignment will be today, Sept. 28, on Rota.

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NMC launches 'Project Be a Mathematician'

The University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Northern Marianas College, through a grant sub-award from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, is launching a pilot project on Saipan called Project Be A Mathematician or Project BEAM.

Dr. Kiriko Takahashi and Dr. Hye-Jin Park, principal investigators for Project BEAM from the Center on Disability Studies at UH Manoa, were recently on island to meet with Jennifer-Eilleen E. Castro, UCEDD program manager at NMC, to lay the groundwork in order to begin the implementation of the project.

The goal of Project BEAM (BE A Mathematician) is to scale up and evaluate a model designed to increase the number of middle school Native Hawaiian, Native American, Pacific Island, and Hispanic students identified as "mathematically promising." To contribute to research advancement and practice for promising indigenous students and sustain the efforts beyond the five-year funding period, the project hopes to create a university-based gifted education program for indigenous and Hispanic students.

Park, Takahashi, and Castro met with Public School System interim commissioner Glenn Muña, associate commissioner Jackie Quitugua, and Math Program coordinator Lizabeth Hofshneider to provide information about Project BEAM, and to request for PSS' assistance in piloting the program with Saipan's middle schools.

The program aims to achieve a number of student outcomes, which include: attitude (attitudes toward math, math anxiety, sense of responsibility and excellence); cultural competence (sense of belonging and place); behavior (math engagement, characteristics of mathematically talented students); academic outcomes (algebra achievement, real-world math application ability, enrollment in a gifted math program or club at middle school and a high school Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) honors certificate program), and STEM identity development. During the meeting, two middle schools on Saipan were identified to participate in this pilot program: Hopwood Middle School and Dandan Middle School.

NMC

Jennifer-Eilleen Castro, right, program manager from Northern Marianas College-University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, recently met with Dr. Hye-Jin Park, left, and Dr. Kiriko Takahashi, second from left, from the University of Hawaii Manoa-Center on Disabilities Studies who are the principal investigators of Project Be a Mathematician. Photo includes Reo Arriola, second from right, vice principal of Dandan Middle School.

"We're all very excited about this project, which will help our students see the joys of math, and hopefully encourage them to go into STEM fields" said Castro. "We are fortunate to have so much support from NMC, PSS, and UH Manoa."

Initial meetings were held with vice principals Reo Arriola of DMS and Victor Borja of HMS to get assistance with identifying students who may be able to participate in the program. The after-school and Saturday program will run for 10 weeks per semester, with 15 students per middle school receiving a total of 50 hours of additional learning support.

The program also includes parent and community workshops to facilitate additional support. Also discussed was the possibility of an intensive two-week math summer camp for middle school students. ***(NMC)***

'Paseo de Marianas neglected, needs upgrade, redesign'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Concepcion

The Marianas Visitors Authority sees the need to renovate and re-design the Paseo de Marianas, which is the heart of Garapan but has become dated and tired.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry about Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall improvements project, MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion said Wednesday that every destination needs an upgrade every few years to effectively compete in the global tourism industry.

Concepcion said Paseo de Marianas was envisioned to be a lively pedestrian mall with shops, restaurants and other establishments catering to tourists and residents. Over the years, it has become neglected and is in dire need of revitalization and redesign.

"Our new design plans will allow for full viewing from Beach Road to Coral Tree Avenue and vice versa so that when one stands at either end of the Paseo de Marianas their view is not obstructed by trees or objects throughout the corridor," he said.

MVA will build an outdoor stage for community events, more seating areas, and will highlight the Hoan Den pavilion with lighting, a green wall and a seating area "for everyone to enjoy."

The Hoan Den monument is one of the few surviving structures in Garapan built during the Japanese administration of the Marianas. "So we want to ensure it gets proper attention," Concepcion said.

He said there will be new landscaping designs, with new plants and flowers that will conform with the Flower Island project.

He said they issued an invitation to bid for the improvement and renovation of Paseo de Marianas and that the closing date is Dec. 14, 2018.

"All interested bidders are invited to participate. Once the contract is awarded, the contractor will have up to 270 days to complete the project," Concepcion said.

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Pohnpei utilities see progress with JEMCO support

WASHINGTON—Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs, applauds the Pohnpei Utilities Corp. for its progress in strengthening institutional management as well as delivery of power and water utilities for the people of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia.

Domenech commends the subsequent decision of the U.S.-FSM Joint Economic Management Committee to provide PUC with $1,328,220 in fiscal year 2019 Compact sector grant assistance to overhaul generators and expand cash power systems at the utility.

"I commend [Office of Insular Affairs director and JEMCO] chairman Nik Pula and the JEMCO for making this grant assistance available to the FSM government for the benefit of the Pohnpei Utilities Corp.," said Domenech. "I understand that leaders in Pohnpei are collaborating to bring PUC out of financial insolvency so that it may operate on sound commercial principles. This is a concrete example of the U.S.-FSM partnership under the Compact of Free Association and how it should work to benefit the people of the FSM."

» JEMCO allocated $1.3 million to overhaul generators and expand 'cash power' system

Domenech visited Pohnpei State in May 2018, where he was given a tour of the Nanpohnmal power plant by PUC manager Nixon Anson and experienced rolling brownouts during his stay.

Compact sector grant assistance as approved by the JEMCO, and made available through the Compact of Free Association (Public Law 108-188) will support the following:

■ Power Generation Engine Servicing: $828,220 to overhaul PUC diesel generators and engines by (1) partial or complete disassembly of the Caterpillar 3516 gensets, (2) inspection to detect damaged, defective, or worn parts, (3) repair or replacement of such parts, and (4) reassembly, testing, and trial-run prior to returning the item to its full operating level.

■ Three-Phase Prepayment Power Metering System Expansion: $500,000 to support the purchase of electric meters for commercial and industrial customers of PUC.

The PUC has been operating under an emergency decree and in crisis mode for several years. Recently, PUC leadership began implementing the early stages of a program to develop a sustainable framework to capitalize, manage, and strengthen the utility called the Multi-Donor Framework for a Capitalization, Recovery, and Institutional Strengthening Program, or CRISP. The CRISP contains commitments from PUC and the Pohnpei State leadership that, when implemented, seeks to enable the PUC to restore itself as a reliable, effective, and efficient provider of power, water, and wastewater utility services to the people of Pohnpei. ***(DOI)***

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MCS films nominees for award at Guam filmfest

Two Mount Carmel School films have been nominated for the Made in the Marianas Award at the 8th Annual Guam International Film Festival, also known as the GIFF.

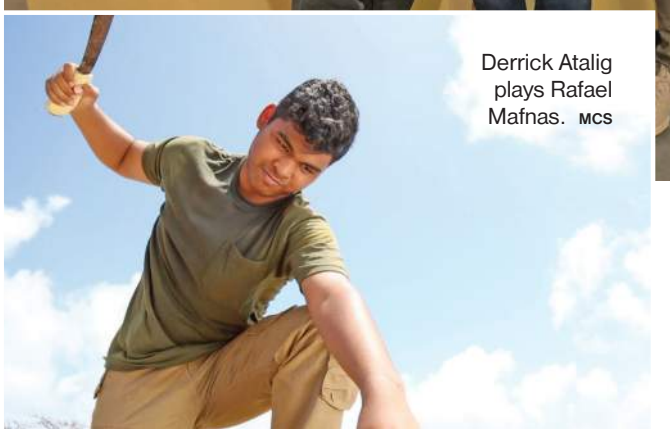
The films, *We Drank Our Tears: Benjamin Abadilla's Story* and *We Drank Our Tears: Rafael Mafnas's Story*, continue the series of films started with last year's *We Drank Our Tears: Fransico Babauta's Story*, which was also nominated for the Made in Marianas award at last year's 7th GIFF.

In his notification letter, Kel Muña, co-founder and program director of the GIFF, congratulated the school and its filmmakers for their selection. "It gives me great pleasure to announce that we are honored to screen your submitted films… as official selections and nominees for the Best Made in the Marianas category."

Recognizing how competitive and prestigious the festival has become, Muña also noted, "Nearly 82 films out of over 300 submissions from over 50 countries around the world were chosen as official selections for this year's festival, with only six nominated for the this award category."

To honor the occasion, some cast and crew members from the films will travel to Guam to attend the GIFF. Underwritten by the CNMI Public School System Federal Programs, 10 members of the cast and crew will attend the screenings of their films and other films at the GIFF. Cast and crew members will also participate in panels at the festival.

The directors of the recent *We Drank Our Tears* films gather for a group photo after a sold-out screening of the films earlier this year. From left to right: Angelo Manese, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, and Justin Ocampo. MCS


Derrick Atalig plays Rafael Mafnas. MCS

Dylan Santos plays Benjamin Abadilla. MCS

Produced by the school's Theatre Club and TRIBE Marianas, the films are adapted from *We Drank Our Tear*s, a 2004 oral history of the civilian experience of World War II battles on Saipan and Tinian, published by Pacific STAR Young Writers Foundation.

In 1944, some of the final battles of World War II were waged on the Pacific islands of Saipan and Tinian. A total of 933 indigenous Chamorro and Refaluwasch civilians did not survive the battles, and the films chronicle some of their stories.

Abadilla's story, as written by MCS school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, it follows Abadilla as he is separated from his family during the battles and hides out in the jungle to find them. Mafnas' story, which was written and directed by students Angelo Manese and Justin Ocampo, tells of Mafnas' efforts to escape crossfire between American and Japanese soldiers by hiding in a cave with his friend.

For student directors Manese and Ocampo, they were just excited for their film to be accepted into the festival. Manese said, "To be accepted, let alone chosen as an official selection and nominated for this award, is both exhilarating and humbling."

Ocampo was equally surprised. "This recognition is also a recognition of the stories we're telling, which we hope these films honor the lives and the memories of Rafael Mafnas and Benjamin Abadilla."

Deleon Guerrero is proud of the accomplishment of the students. "This success, for a second year in a row, speaks to the talent, the hard work, and the passion of these amazing students.

"Between cast and crew, pre-production and production, these films were primarily made by students, and are proof of what amazing things they can do," Deleon Guerrero said.

The films' cast and crew included a wide range of talent from across the island. Both films were produced by Deleon Guerrero, 2005 AlumKnight Rob Travilla and his company TRIBE Marianas, Frankie Eliptico and the Northern Marianas College, and the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities.

Mafnas' story features Derrick Atalig as Rafael, Matt Moran as his friend Juan, Seok Jun Run as Takeda, a Japanese soldier, Eric Kiser as Mike, an American soldier, and Rodrigo Castro as the older Rafael. Abadilla's story features Dylan Santos as Benjamin, Aysia Adele Duenas Santos as his mother, Martha, Kalea Borja as his aunt, Mariana, and Jeremiah Diaz as his father, Ramon. The cast also includes Mark Toves as the older Benjamin, Joaquin C. Duenas as the older Ramon, and Joyce C. Santos as an older version of Benjamin's sister.

Both films shared a crew, with Quincy Chinen as the unit production manager, Kelvin Cepeda as the first assistant director, Reica Ramirez as script supervisor, Victoria Deleon Guerrero and Joanie Paraiso as production designers, and Alvin Palacios as lead cameraman. The crew also included Aldwin Batusin and Ivy Leong assisting with production design, Kyle Bautista operating the boom microphone, and Maverick Irang serving as the crew grip.

Screening times for the GIFF are as follow:

■ *We Drank Our Tears: Rafael Mafnas' Story*

Fri, Oct 5: 6pm, Guam Museum Indoor Theatre

Sat, Oct 27: 1:pm, Guam Museum Indoor Theatre

■ *We Drank Our Tears: Benjamin Abadilla's Story*

Sat, Oct 6: 2:45pm, Guam Museum Indoor Theatre

Sun, Oct 2: 1pm, Guam Museum Indoor Theatre

All GIFF films will be screened at the Guam Museum.

According to the GIFF website, the festival is the first and only annual U.S. film festival in the Western Pacific. For more information about the GIFF, or to purchase tickets, visit www.guamfilmfestival.org. ***(MCS)***

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E-Land Group donates $10K for Rota relief

E-Land Group's Kensington Hotel has made a generous in-kind donation of $10,000 to the Lady Diann Torres Foundation for the use of relief efforts on Rota after the recent devastation left by Typhoon Mangkhut. In the photo are first lady Diann Torres, Kensington's general manager Matthew Park, and members of various organizations under Ayuda Luta Rota Relief group and staff of Kensington. E-LAND GROUP

Kensington Hotel Saipan and Pacific Islands Club Saipan donated on Tuesday $10,000 to Lady Diann Torres Foundation to help Rota recover from the damage wrought by Typhoon Mangkhut.

In the presentation of donation checks, management of E-Land Group Saipan expresses their empathy to Rota community.

"We all went through Typhoon Soudelor in 2015 and well aware how frustrating it can be. Supporting each other is a must when there is unexpected hardship like this," said Matthew Park, president of E-Land Group Saipan. "We are deeply grateful to Lady Diann Torres Foundation for the opportunity to be a part of good cause. As a member of the CNMI community, we thank the foundation for all their efforts to expedite Rota rebuilding."

Gloria Cavanagh, the general manager of PIC Saipan, said: "It is a relief that Rota is recovering back on its track, thanks to all of Mariana's caring help. We are happy to step up for our sister island and hope our donation would be useful for our brothers and sisters of Rota."

According to first lady Diann Torres, the contribution of E-Land Group will be distributed in the form of gift certificates of hardware store, as construction supplies are the priority items the typhoon-hit island is seeking.

E-Land Group, the parent company of Kensington, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Golf Resort, has always sought a way to give back to the community since they started business on Saipan. ***(PR)***

6 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged six Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Affected sites include the beaches adjacent to the Central Repair Shop, DPW channel bridge, Micro Beach, Puerto Rico dump, the American Memorial Park, and Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

NAVFAC Pacific awards contract for work in Guam

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM— Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific awarded yesterday an $82-million firm-fixed price contract to Black Construction Corp. of Harmon, Guam, for the design and construction of an aircraft maintenance facility and a corrosion control hangar with supporting facilities at Andersen Air Force Base.

The work to be performed provides for the design and construction of a low-rise airframes shop facility with slab-on-grade shallow foundation, reinforced concrete walls and roof, including windows, mechanical, and electrical systems appropriate to Guam earthquake and environmental conditions; and a high-bay corrosion control hangar consisting of two bays - a planned maintenance interval bay and a corrosion control bay.

Work will be performed in Yigo, Guam with an expected completion date of January 2021. The contract was competitively procured via the Federal Business Opportunities website with five proposals received. ***(USN)***

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Kilili: Congress kills $700 CW fee

WASHINGTON, D.C. —The U.S. House of Representatives has rejected a Trump administration proposal to add a new $700 fee to the application for CW permits in the Marianas.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) reports that instead of charging Marianas businesses, the U. S. Department of Labor will reprogram $8.25 million to cover the cost of new labor certifications required by Sablan's U.S. Workforce Act, Public Law 115-218.

The House voted on Wednesday to approve fiscal year 2019 funding bill granting the reprogramming authority. The bill, H.R. 6157, now goes to the President for signature.

"This new $700 fee was something the Trump administration could have proposed when we drafted the Workforce Act," Sablan said. "But they did not.

"Of course, I would have opposed it then, too. Maybe that is why they decided to come in, after the law was enacted, and try to attach a rider to a spending bill. They knew there would be no opportunity for public comment or a hearing.

"Fortunately, I was able to work with the conference committee to kill this fee proposal. It would have cost the Marianas business community an estimated $9 million next year."

The fee was supposed to cover the cost of labor certifications required by the U.S. Workforce Act Beginning with fiscal year 2020, the Labor Department must certify that no U.S. worker is able, willing, and available before a job can be offered to a CW worker. This is the same kind of certification required prior to issuance of an H-2B visa for temporary foreign workers.

"The H-2B certification is free," Sablan said. "The CW certification should be free, too."

The delegate did acknowledge there would be a cost to set up and operate the certification service for the Marianas CW program. In a statement in the *Congressional Record* Sablan said, "It is in the interest of our businesses and the Marianas economy that the new certification requirement be initiated without delay.

"The conferees have ensured that will be the case by providing in Section 118 of H.R. 6157 for the rescission of $8.25 million in unobligated funds from the H-1B Nonimmigrant Petitioner Account to be used in fiscal year 2019 for processing applications for foreign labor certifications, including activities related to wage determinations and associated tasks, submitted by Marianas employers."

Sablan thanked the conferees for adopting this "win-win" solution.

"Negotiating the Workforce Act and getting it passed was a big job," Sablan said. "Now, I have to make sure that the law is implemented, as we intended it to be, every step of the way."

More provisions of the U.S. Workforce Act begin going into effect next year.

VAWA reauthorized

In his statement Sablan also expressed support for reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. Besides funding the Labor Department, the House-passed spending bill also includes short-term funding for the Department of Homeland Security and keeps VAWA programs in operation through Dec. 7.

"Reauthorization for a multi-year period is still wanting," Sablan said. He is an original cosponsor of H.R. 6545, which reauthorizes violence against women programs for another five years.

Sablan was also an original cosponsor when VAWA was last reauthorized in 2013. He included a provision in Section 201 of the Act that doubled the funding allocated to the Northern Mariana Islands for the Sexual Assault Service Program. And Section 809 allowed women, who petition for status as victims of human trafficking or violence, to count the time lived in the Northern Marianas as time present in the United States, so they can more quickly adjust to a permanent immigrant status.

Sablan also provided for a state-share of funding for the Northern Marianas Domestic Violence Coalition in Section 311 of Public Law 111-320, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. "Now, more than ever, we are all made aware of how many lives are damaged by acts of sexual harassment and violence," Sablan said. "We have to do everything we can to bring federal resources to bear on prevention, healing, and, where required, punishment." ***(PR)***

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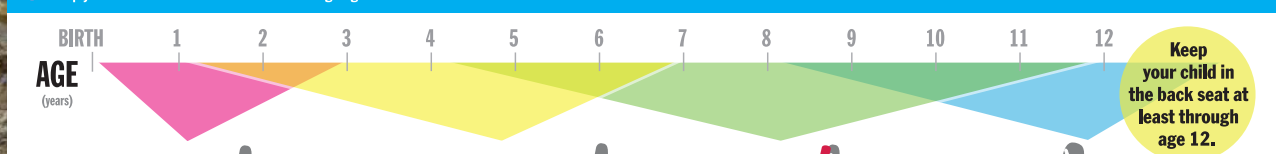
- To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.



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BOOSTER SEAT
Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

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Lions aid in Rota recovery

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lions Club International put its resources together to provide relief goods for those still recovering from Typhoon Mangkhut that devastated Rota three weeks ago.

According to a report from the Lions Club International (LCI) Region 2 District 204, the organization was able to donate relief items such as bottled water, rice, assorted clothing, noodles, tissue paper, rubbing alcohol, body soaps, canned goods, cereals, toothbrushes, bed sheets, and blankets.

The club sent the relief goods through the Ayuda Luta Rota relief containers that arrived on Rota last week.

According to Region 2 assistant public relations officer Mario Mayuga, the club is hoping that their donations can further assist the needs on Rota.

"It feels good seeing the community helping each other and working together," he said.

Region 2 chair Annamae Adaza said it is important to the club to be of help in any way they can.

LCI Region 2 District 204 is composed of six clubs on Saipan: Saipan Fil-Am, Saipan Unity, Saipan Marianas, Saipan Alliance, Saipan Natibu, and Saipan Centennial Lions Club.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is also collecting relief donations that will be sent to Rota.

The CNMI Fire and EMS Association also raised over $8,000 to aid those who are still recovering from Typhoon Mangkhut.

The island of Rota is now transitioning into long-term recovery that includes the rebuilding homes and structures damaged by the typhoon.

CUC, OAG object to judge's site visit

Nicholas

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the CNMI government are objecting to a landowner's motion for a judge to visit the land that is involved in their legal dispute.

Conrad M. Sablan, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, has asked Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho to make a site visit in Rafugao.

Sablan is suing CUC and the CNMI government for allegedly putting up a water tank and fences on his land without compensating him.

He said he found out in 2013 that CUC had built the water tank, referred to as the Maui IV Water Tank, on his property. The tank was built in March 1992.

Sablan further discovered that CUC also built wire fences that prevent him from being able to access his other property in the area.

CUC and the government objected, arguing that it is uncertain what property or whether any property is relevant to the case.

Office of the Attorney General Civil Division chief Christopher M. Timmons said that, unless and until Sablan has laid a foundation at trial to support a site visit to these or to any other parcels of land, the Commonwealth objects to a site visit on the grounds of relevance and lack of foundation. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Abandoned building now a 23-room hotel

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An abandoned four-story building on Alyupang Pl at Laly 4 Beach in Chalan Kanoa has been converted into a 23-room beachfront hotel.

The Marine Sports Hotel, which used to occupy the place but shut down many years, is now owned by Magisland LLC, which bought the building two years ago and turned it into Saipan Beach Hotel last January, according to Mustafa Shakir, who is part of the hotel's managing company.

Shakir said the renovation cost an estimated $600,000.

The building itself is located on 1,000 square meters of beachfront land. The area is zoned as a tourist resort.

Magisland LLC has filed a request with the CNMI Zoning Office for a conditional use permit to occupy the four-story building and operate the Saipan Beach Hotel. The CNMI Zoning Board will hear the permit application at the Kanoa Resort Latte Stone conference room on Oct. 4, 2018, at 5pm.

Shakir said their target are government workers and tourists from China, Korea, and from other countries.

An abandoned building at Laly 4 Beach in Chalan Kanoa has been renovated into the 23-room Saipan Beach Hotel.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

"We are open to all," he said. "We give them [guests} service and take care of them."

The hotel is a one-minute walk to the beach.

Shakir said they offer some rooms with garden views and free WiFi throughout the property.

It has a 24-hour front desk. Each unit comes with a seating area and a flatscreen TV.

JON PEREZ

Members of the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Battalion pose with members of the CNMI House of Representatives last Tuesday after receiving a resolution acknowledging their accomplishments at the Golden Bear West Coast National Drill Meet in April in California.

House honors Mantas, Trianni

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives honored the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Battalion and Sheila N. Trianni on Tuesday for their various achievements and contributions to the CNMI.

The presentation was held at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

The Manta Ray Battalion was honored with House Resolution 20-27 introduced by Rep. Alice S. Igitol (R-Saipan) after their successful run at the Golden Bear West Coast National Drill Meet last April 28 in Torrance, California where they went home with second place finishes in the Varsity Armed Color Guard and Armed Regulation Varsity.

The Mantas also placed fourth in the Four-Man Exhibition Varsity and fifth in the Outstanding Commander Varsity Armed.

The Kagman High School Ayuyu Battalion and the Tinian High School Stallion Battalion joined the Mantas in Torrance, forming the CNMI-Multi School Unit team that represented the Commonwealth in Torrance.

Team CNMI went home with the overall Golden Bear National Championship and the All-Army Championship Travelling trophies.

SSHS, KHS, and THS earned the right to represent the CNMI at Golden Bear after winning their respective events at the 2018 CNMI Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Drill Competition at Marianas High School early this year.

Matthew Kapileo, Jhon Reyes, Marc Ruiz, Bert Magallano, Leonardo Sanchez, Jan Socorro, Miguel Quiambao, Kody Babauta, Emmanuel Aquino, Franz De Ramos, M.J. De Belen, Timothy Villanueva, June Alipio, Edwin Mactal, Roger Valencia, and Christy Aldan were the Manta Ray cadets that performed.

Senior JROTC instructor CSM (ret.) Richard Basa thanked the House for commending the children's accomplishments. "These kids, with their hard work and dedication, actually put the CNMI on the map every time we show up in Torrance, California. So, they now know where the CNMI is."

Trianni, meanwhile, was honored for her exceptional service in the field of law in the CNMI. She's the Law Revision Commission executive director while also the CNMI Judiciary's general counsel, former CNMI assistant attorney general, and the Office of the Public Auditor's legal counsel.

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), who introduced H.R. 20-39, said Trianni oversaw the compilation and codification of all CNMI laws into the Commonwealth Code and the NMI Administrative Code.

She is also credited with improving the LRC's website and enhancing the quality of legal resources available to the CNMI community.

"A few years ago, in order for legislators or any legal counsel to know what certain laws are, they had to go down at the LRC office and rummage through the books. Today, it is available at the touch of your fingertips online," said Blanco.

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Miscellaneous: Other discounts and travel certificates are not applicable. Offer subject to change at any time. Advance purchase may be required. All published fare rules apply.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Tract No. 22916-R1 containing an area of approximately 5,472 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands office and website at www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Advance Marine Saipan Corporation. The Directors of Advance Marine Saipan Corporation. are Masaaki Kobayashi – President/Secretary, Hisahi Taniguchi – Vice President and Seong Bok Hun - Treasurer.

iii. The proposed Lease Agreement is compliant with DPL regulations. To extent it and was negotiated, discussions were by Mr. Masaaki Kobayashi. and Mr. Sean Frink.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of boat repair facility and parasailing services.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease extension is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

v. A copy of the proposed Extension Agreement and First Amendment to the Lease Agreement may be obtained at the office of the Secretary, Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. As of the time of this publication, the Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before 4:00 p.m. October 12, 2018 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian. 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

NUTISIAN I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku mannånå´i guini nutisia put i intensiona ni para u ma´atkila metton na tanu´ pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattida ni intirisao gi hålum pupblikun hineråt siña muna´hålum upiño, infotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu´ pupbliku. Kumu mås mo´na mapribeni ginin i Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi na pettanesin infotmasion manisisita na para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu´ pupbliku madiskribi kumu Tract No. 22916-R1 ni konsisisti kåsi 5,472 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi Lower Base, giya Saipan. I kopian påttin i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku yan website gi www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.

ii. I prospective lessee i Advance Marine Saipan Corporation. I Direktot i Advance Marine Saipan Corporation siha si Masaaki Kobayashi – i Presidenti/Tresuråriu yan Hisahi Taniguchi – i Sigundu na Presidenti yan Seong Bok Hun - Tresuråriu.

iii. I maproponi na Kontråtan Atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha. Para u ma´ekstendi yan ginin manegosiu, i diskuti siha ginin as Siñot Masaaki Kobayashi yan Sinot Sean Frink.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt put atyu ha´ na rason para fasilidåt na´maolik boti yan setbisiun parasailing siha.

I tema nu i maproponi kontråtan atkilon sa benti singku (25) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilon gi kada´ såkkan gi durântin i teman i ekstendin i atkila mapega gi pusentun nu i bålin appraised fair market i propiedåt.

v. I kopian nu i maproponi na Kontråtan Ekstendi yan i Fine´ni´na na Amendasion para i Kontråtan Atkilon siña machuli´ gi ufisinan i Sekritårian, Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku, gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building gi Dandan, giya Saipan, primet (1st) bibienda gi De'Ana Commercial Building, gi Songsong Village, giya Luta; pat i primet (1st) bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, giya Tinian. I kopia debi lokkui´ na managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Kumu tiempun nu esti na pupblikasion, i Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku ti manmarisibi ni håfa na tinahguin inefresi siha ni para ma´atkila i suhetu na tanu´ pupbliku gi Lower Base, giya Saipan.

vii. I Sekritårian Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku ha aksesepta tinigi´ upiño, infotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di alas kuåttru gi talu´åni (4:00 p.m.) gi Oktubri 12, 2018 gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian. (2nd) bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building gi Dandan, giya Saipan, primet (1st) bibienda gi De'Ana Commercial Building, gi Songsong Village, giya Luta; pat i primet (1st) bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, giya Tinian.

ARONGORONGOL POMMWOL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap ekke attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilay falúw sángi faluweer toulap wóól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommw ngáli atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebwe akkatéewow.

i. Faluweer toulap iye rebwe atkkilaay reel falúw kkal, e bwáálló bwe Tract No. 22916-R1 e bwáá bwe 5,472 reel square meters, elapeló ngáre eghús, iye e lo Lower base, Seipél. Eyoor pappidil falúw yeel me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól aar website me www.dpl.gov.mp ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.

ii. Schóól atkkilóón nge Advance Marin. Direkktoodil Advance Marine Saipan Corporation. nge Masaaki Kobayashi – President/Sekkretóóriyo, Hisahi Taniguchi – Vice President me Seong Bok Hun – Treasurer.

iii. Pommwol Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón nge e compliant ngáli mwóghutughutúl DPL. Eyoor tool igha re ppwol fengál, mwaliili sángi Mr. Masaaki Kobayashi me Mr. Sean Frink.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw bwe ebwe yoor leliyál rebwe aghatchú bwoot me ayoorai angaangil parasailing.

Pommwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.

Pommwol óbwóssul atkkilóón llól eew ráágh reel lease extension nge e lo reel percentage sángi appraised fair market value reel falúw.

v. Pappidil pommwol Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh me reel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial building, Songsong Village, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappid yeel online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Atol oral arongorong yeel, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye re siiweli ngáli atkkilóón iye e lo weiláng me Elal Ghaloowa, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Toulap emmwelil bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angiingi ngáre pommw iye re siiweli sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngáre mmwalil 4:00 p.m. Ottuubre 12, 2018 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap iye e lo Seipél, Luuta ngáre Tchiliyól. 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial building, Songsong Village, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyól.

MARIANAS BEER & BBQ FESTIVAL

Beer-lympics, cookoff at beer festival

Light the torch! The Beer-lympics and Chun Ji BBQ Short Ribs Cookoff are coming to the 2nd Annual Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival on Oct. 6, 2018, at Garapan Fishing Base.

The deadline to register with the Marianas Visitors Authority is Friday, Sept. 28, at 4pm.

The Beer-lympics from 8pm to 9pm will welcome up to 10 teams of four participants each that will compete in a series of obstacles or stages. Prizes will be $200 worth of festival tokens for first place, $150 worth of festival tokens for second place, and $100 of festival tokens for third place.

The Chun Ji BBQ Short Ribs Cookoff will challenge six teams of one or two participants to prepare on site the best-tasting and best-plated ribs, served with two side dishes. The competition will be from 5pm to 6pm and contestants must provide their own grill, charcoal, ingredients, and other necessities. Prizes will be $50 worth of festival tokens for first place, $40 worth of festival tokens for second place, and $30 of festival tokens for third place.

Winners will also receive giveaways from the MVA, and participants will be selected by the MVA. Complete rules, applications, and waiver forms are available on The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

"We strongly feel the Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival has the potential to grow to become a major signature event, and the introduction of the Beer-lympics and the Chung Ji BBQ Short Ribs Cookoff are a move in that direction," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "This year's event is going to offer all that the inaugural festival offered and much more! We encourage all interested competitors to submit their applications by [Sept. 28] for consideration. We thank our partners Roil Soil for hosting the Beer-lympics and Chun Ji Korean BBQ Restaurant for sponsoring the Chun Ji BBQ Short Ribs Cookoff."

The Marianas Beer & BBQ festival will be held at Garapan Fishing Base and is free and open to all ages, but individuals must purchase a package to consume alcohol. The legal drinking age in the Marianas is 21. The $25 package includes two 12 oz. servings of beer or wine; two 4 oz. samples of beer or wine; one chaser, and an official Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival collectible beer glass. The $50 package includes three 12 oz. servings of beer or wine; three 4 oz. samples of beer or wine; two chasers, an official Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival collectible beer glass, and an official Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival T-shirt. Festival tickets are available at the MVA office on Beach Road, San Jose.

All alcohol must be served in the official 2018 festival beer class. Additional purchases will be $5 per 12 oz. beer or wine serving, $1 for soda or water, and $1-$10 for chasers.

Saipan Brewing Co., Marpac, I Love Saipan, Westco, and Franken Brau have all confirmed to participate in the event, which pairs Marianas brews with island-style barbecue and other appetizers and is an annual signature event of the MVA. Slated to provide a variety of chasers for the events are Mystique Snack Bar, Ina's Kitchen, The Hut, and Salty's.

This year's festival will again include the participation of Taiwan's famous Fourplay Cuisine & Bar. Fourplay bar leader Moriz Wu and attendant Sion Wu will be on hand to debut new signature beer cocktails for the Marianas using locally brewed Saipan Brewing beer.

The festival is scheduled from 5pm to 11pm and will also feature live music and games. For more information, contact Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez of the MVA at 1 (670) 664-3200/1 or rvillagomez@mymarianas.com or visit The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

Tonga explores 'cheaper, sustainable electricity through biogas generation

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga— Biogas generation using agriculture and animal products has promising potential for Tonga and the Pacific Islands, if pursued through a well-defined circular economy strategy.

This was the conclusion of a four-day visit jointly organized by the Pacific Community's Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and the Institute for Applied Material Flow Management of the Trier University of Applied Sciences, Germany earlier in September.

The circular economy system alludes to the ecological cycles of nature with a constant stock of matter and influx of sun energy. In this natural economy waste does not exist. All matters are recycled with the help of sun energy as the needed additional energy source for 100 percent recycling. More practically explained, circular economy means reducing resource use and reducing the load on natural sinks.

Most of the renewable energy developments in Tonga and the Pacific Islands are currently based on solar and wind energy. They are, however, available on an intermittent basis such that a sudden drop in solar radiance due to cloud covers or a drop in the wind speed during calm days, etc., would be a sudden drop in the power network's ability to meet demand. Power utilities in the Pacific are looking at battery storage systems to address this challenge.

Poasi Tei, Tinga's minister for Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Climate Change and Communications, led a delegation from Tonga and the Pacific Community, or SPC, to witness how biogas is used in Germany as community-owned investments that generate affordable and highly efficient electricity and heat (or cooling) to the community.

"We are looking for a technology that would immediately lower the costs of power generation and have immediate impacts on the tariff to consumers, a power source that is also sustainable in the long term," said Tei.

Biogas production is a mature technology that relies on the decomposition of biomatter. Farmers in Germany plant, harvest, and use maze as substrate for the biogas plants. Maze plants are only harvested once a year during summer. In Tonga, the "saafa grass" grows wild everywhere and can be harvested year-round.

Biogas has been successfully used in Tonga at the household level. In Germany, it is used on an industrial scale with capacity of up to 5 megawatts. There are close to 10,000 commercial biogas plants in Germany and it is a proven technology.

Biogas produces energy on a 24-hour basis. It is a baseload energy source that can replace diesel power generation and have an immediate impact on reducing the power generation costs. The efficiency of the power generation is above 90 percent and it will generate organic fertilizers that are much needed for the declining soil fertility in Tonga.

A team from the Institute for Applied Material Flow Management of the Trier University of Applied Sciences, Germany will visit Tonga in November to hold further discussions with stakeholders and government on advancing Tonga's desire to embrace biogas generation using a circular economy strategy. ***(PR)***

NMI Museum remains leak- and flood-free

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thanks to recent renovations made to the CNMI Museum, it has managed to weather back-to-back typhoons and has remained leak- and flood-free.

Speaking at Tuesday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, NMI Museum director Danny Aquino noted that the NMI Museum did not sustain any damage from Typhoon Mangkhut, Typhoon Cimaron, Typhoon Jebi, and incidents of rain and thunderstorms that passed over Saipan recently.

"Everything problematic in the past has now been resolved. There has been no water leaking into the museum and there has been no flooding as a result of the heavy rains, so everything has been taken cared of," he said.

Aquino noted that several artifacts and items in the museum retained water damage last year. "…Some [items] were damaged by termites, such as the display cases. As far as the artifacts are concerned, everything is all [in the museum]," he said, adding that the ancient gold recovered from a Spanish galleon shipwreck, which was recently a topic of discussion after an individual posted on social media that the gold was missing, remains in the museum.

The NMI Museum was shut down because of plumbing issues, which worsened after Typhoon Soudelor struck Saipan in 2015. The museum re-opened about two months ago, with many changes from when it was first shut down.

"We had a full-blown termite colony. The museum was also flooded because of the roof, and we had no running water for over five years," he said, adding that the restroom, water lines, and leaks took about a month to repair.

"The rest of the stuff took about six months," he added. "The museum now is a lot cleaner, it is well lit, and it is just a good feeling because the walls have different color paint."

Kagman Farm Plot and NMI agri census info meeting set

There will be a Kagman Farm Plot Meeting on Oct. 17, 2018, at 9am at the Division of Agriculture in Kagman.

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources is inviting farmers on island to participate.

In collaboration with the CNMI Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Division for the upcoming CNMI Census of Agriculture, the CNMI Division of Agriculture is assisting in efforts to collect pre-census data by compiling a list of farm operators in the CNMI. This meeting will be an opportunity to meet and collaborate with farmers/farm operators in this endeavor.

If you have any questions pertaining to the upcoming Census of Agriculture, contact the director of the CNMI Central Statistics Division, Justin H. Andrew at 664-3023 or the CNMI Division of Agriculture's Diane Gabaldon at 256-3318 for information about this meeting. ***(PR)***

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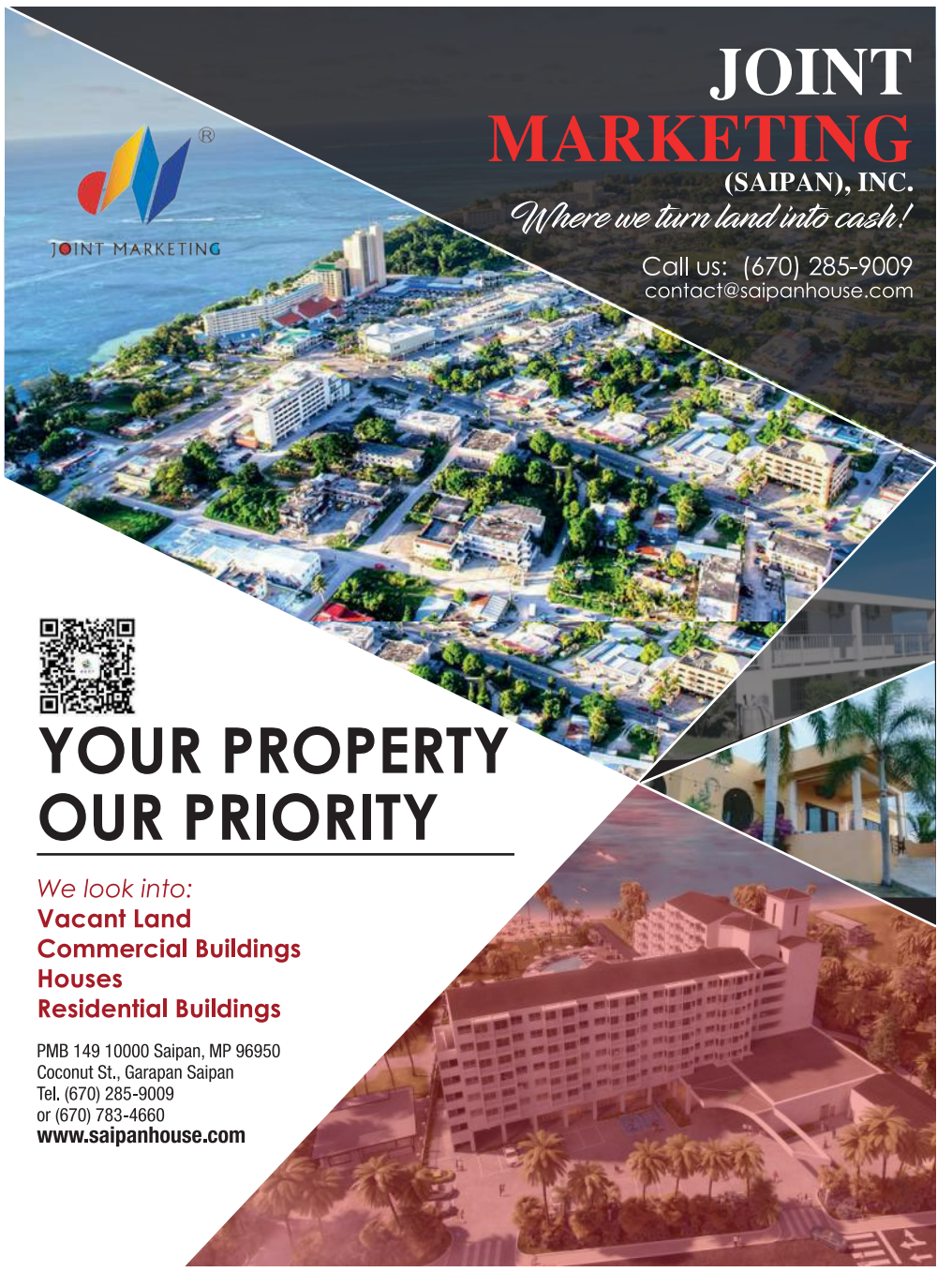

Opinion

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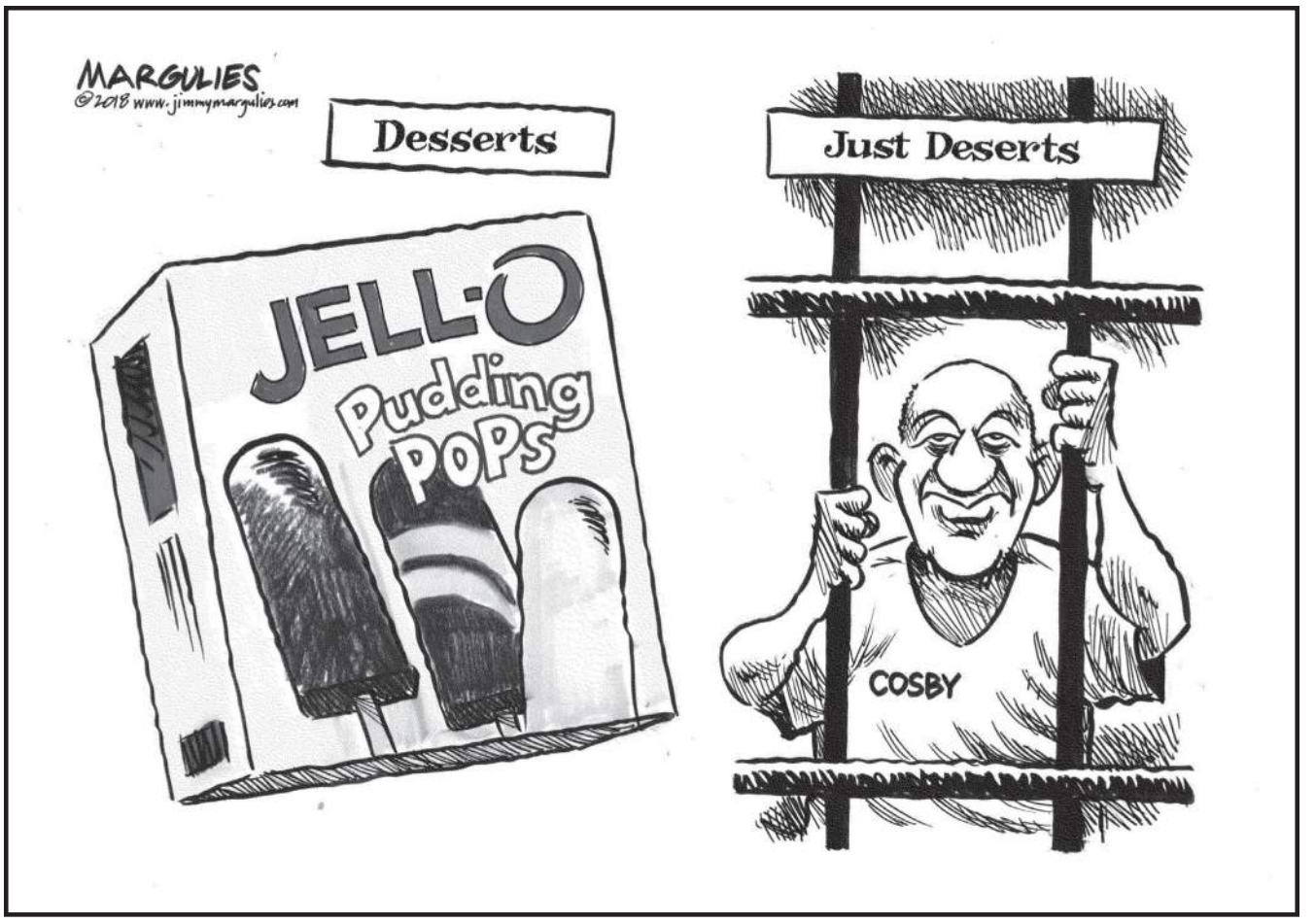

EDITORIAL

Help addicts, but get answers, too

As deaths stemming from opioid addiction on Long Island have reached unprecedented levels, law enforcement officials and health professionals have tried practically everything they can think of to stem the epidemic.

About 600 people died from drug overdoses on Long Island last year, not because society isn't reacting, but because the problem is so intractable. Once hooked, addicts find that quitting heroin and prescription painkillers is terribly difficult with treatment, and practically impossible without it. And the criminal justice system is ill-equipped to deal with people whose nonviolent, low-level misdeeds, such as drug possession and petty theft, are criminal but whose primary victims are usually themselves, and whose deepest offense is often breaking the hearts of loved ones.

Now Suffolk County has rolled out one more program to try to make a difference. Nonviolent drug offenders with little or no criminal record are being offered addiction treatment that, if they participate for 90 days, would erase pending criminal charges. The program doesn't replace Suffolk's Drug Treatment Court, where offenders must enter a guilty plea before they can enter treatment, and must participate for 12 or 18 months.

Defense attorneys say Drug Treatment Court remains the right option for some addicts who stand accused; however, another choice is needed because many defendants won't plead guilty, commit to lengthy programs or wait for the legal process to play out just to get to treatment. That's particularly true when the jail sentences they would receive for a guilty plea are shorter than the rehabilitation time they'd have to commit to. And if they fail to successfully complete the diversion program, they are right back to facing those sentences.

Suffolk's new program is called Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Education, or CARE. It is modeled on a similar initiative the Bronx district attorney's office launched late last year. Nassau County also offers a variety of interventions that can lead to treatment rather than incarceration for addiction-related crimes.

All these efforts are worthy, but one of their most important goals at this point ought to be to compile data and detailed follow-up of participants to help show what works to keep people sober.

Is it intervention that erases charges and prevents convictions, or intervention that follows a guilty plea or conviction, when the punishment can be stayed and the record erased if treatment is completed? Does a 90-day commitment to a program work, or are 12 or 18 months needed? Which of the state-certified facilities have succeeded in getting people sober, keeping them sober and why? Is medically assisted treatment the answer, or 12-step programs, or a combination of the two? Does methadone work better than suboxone or Vivitrol? Do clients do better when they pick the type of treatment that resonates with them, or is that choosing irrelevant or even counterproductive?

Criminal justice and addiction treatment cost a lot of money, and addiction destroys a lot of lives. It's good to create more options, but we need to find out what works, too, so we can go from trying everything to doing the right thing.

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We've been here before

Before Merrick Garland, there was Abe Fortas. And before Brett Kavanaugh, there was Clarence Thomas, Robert Bork and Clement Haynsworth.

While higher profile in these days of 24-hour cable news, the current battle over President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nomination of Kavanaugh has evoked memories of prior conflicts, especially the bitterly ideological 1987 battle over Bork and the 1991 charges of improper sexual behavior against Thomas.

It's a reminder that, in these periodic Supreme Court confirmation fights, history often repeats itself—and not just because they inevitably pit Senate liberals against conservatives. Except for Thomas, every high court nominee enveloped in controversy over the past half century was rejected, a result the White House and Majority Leader Mitch McConnell are battling to avoid.

These recurring high dramas are hardly surprising in this polarized era, since replacing just one of the court's nine justices can shift its entire ideological orientation. That is especially true now, given the likelihood that Kavanaugh would almost certainly move the court to the right, fulfilling Trump's election pledge but making it more conservative on issues like abortion than most Americans.

Allegations that Kavanaugh, as a teenager, sexually assaulted a fellow high school student and behaved improperly toward a college classmate are most reminiscent of Anita Hill's charges against Thomas. Kavanaugh and his supporters, like Thomas', have flatly denied their validity.

But in long-term impact, this parallels the 1969 fight in which a bipartisan group of Senate liberals blocked Haynsworth, a conservative appeals judge named by President Richard Nixon to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of liberal Justice Fortas and move the court to the right.

President Lyndon B. Johnson initially nominated Fortas, his longtime attorney and political confidant, in 1965, and he was confirmed by voice vote just 14 days later. But in the final year of Johnson's presidency, Chief Justice Earl Warren announced his retirement, and Johnson sought to elevate Fortas. That provoked a summer-long battle in which Republicans and their southern Democratic allies succeeded in blocking the nomination, voting to leave the choice to the next president just as GOP lawmakers refused in 2016 to confirm Garland for the vacancy created by the late Justice Antonin Scalia's death.

In 1969, Nixon chose the more conservative Warren Burger as chief justice. Soon after, Fortas was forced to resign from the court over his acceptance of $20,000 in consultant fees from a financier jailed over illegal stock manipulation. That created an unexpected opportunity for Nixon to fill a liberal seat with a conservative.

Ironically, just as private financial dealings torpedoed Fortas, so too they damaged Haynsworth, who had ruled in several cases involving companies in which he held stock. In addition, civil rights groups questioned his votes in some desegregation cases.

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News*. Readers may write to him via email at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.*

The Senate rejected him, 55-45, with both parties divided at a time each had both liberal and conservative members. Opposed were 38 Democrats and 17 Republicans, including the Senate's two top GOP leaders; in favor were 19 Democrats and 26 Republicans.

Having failed to win Haynsworth's confirmation, Nixon defiantly named another Southerner who was more conservative and less qualified, Judge G. Harrold Carswell. Ironically, the initial reaction was that he would be confirmed, as had been the case with Haynsworth and was, until recently, with Kavanaugh.

But Carswell's record of hostility to civil rights groups and past racist statements sparked the same opposition coalition that defeated Haynsworth, though one of his own supporters, Sen. Roman Hruska, R-Neb., administered the coup de grace. Responding to critics calling Carswell's record "undistinguished," Hruska said, "Even if he were mediocre, there are a lot of mediocre judges and people and lawyers. They are entitled to a little representation, aren't they, and a little chance? We can't have all Brandeises, Frankfurters and Cardozos." Carswell was rejected, 51-45.

Nixon then nominated Judge Harry Blackmun, a moderate Minnesota Republican and a close friend of Burger. He was confirmed 94-0 but later angered conservatives by writing one of the modern court's most significant decisions, legalizing abortions. Before Nixon's first term ended, he named two more justices, decisively establishing the court's conservative majority that remains today.

Over the next half century, the same coalition that defeated the two Nixon nominees rejected Bork, narrowly failed to beat Thomas and hopes to derail Kavanaugh. Meanwhile, party realignment has seen most conservatives become Republicans and liberals become Democrats, making these battles partisan as well as ideological.

That 1970 fight came after a presidential election led to an unexpected vacancy. Some of the emotion in the Kavanaugh fight stems from the GOP's refusal in 2016 to even consider President Barack Obama's nomination of Garland, enabling Trump to fill the Scalia vacancy with conservative Justice Neil Gorsuch.

And just as GOP moderates cast crucial negative votes in those battles of the 1970s, GOP Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska may well decide if the Senate confirms or rejects Judge Kavanaugh.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Thus spoke Henry

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

It's time for some wisdom from Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862), for the simple reason that I'm in the mood for just such a thing. Thoreau is best known for his book, *Walden,* but he's got other works out there including a number of essays.

■■■

We'll start with this:

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essentials facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."

I've known teachers on Saipan who could offer the above quote from memory. Me, I had to look it up. I'd nominate it as one of the best all-time sentences in American letters.

It brings to mind another favorite quote that I can't help from mentioning from time to time, one that also has fans on Saipan, although I don't recall anyone actually reciting it from memory; this is from the 1964 novel *The Deep Blue Good-by* by John D. MacDonald:

"I am wary of the whole dreary deadening structured mess we have built into such a glittering top-heavy structure that there is nothing left to see but the glitter, and the brute routines of maintaining it."

Thoreau and MacDonald had roughly the same take on a lot of things. They had something else in common, too: They went to Harvard.

■■■

More Thoreau:

"Spending of the best part of one's life earning money in order to enjoy questionable liberty during the least valuable part of it, reminds me of the Englishman who went to India to make a fortune first, in order that he might return to England and live the life of a poet. He should have gone up garret at once."

This is akin to the tale that circulates in modern times about the businessman who goes on vacation in the tropics. He sees a local lounging about on a small fishing boat. The businessman tells the local that he should get more ambitious, form a corporation, round up some investors, buy a few more boats, sell a lot of fish, and then he can get rich enough to retire. Once he retires he can lounge about on a boat and go fishing. The local points out that he's already doing that.

■■■

I must report that Thoreau took a dim view of the news business. Here is a take worthy of the most dedicated curmudgeon:

"If we read of one man robbed, or murdered, or killed by accident, or one house burned, or one vessel wrecked, or one steamboat blown up, or one cow run over on the Western railroad, or one mad dog killed, or one lot of grasshoppers in the winter--, we never need read of another. One is enough. If you are acquainted with the principle, what do you care for a myriad instances and applications?"

Whether you agree with the sentiment or not, you can't deny that when Thoreau got cranky it had some good ol' down home, woodsy authenticity to it.

He also went Full Cranky on a number of occasions and did it with gusto. Although he was an intellectual, he darned sure didn't cower under a desk when he had something in his craw.

■■■

Here's a Thoreau quote that certainly applies every bit as much to modern society as it did to his times:

"The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation. What is called resignation is confirmed desperation. From the desperate city you go into the desperate country, and have to console yourself with the bravery of minks and muskrats. A stereotyped but unconscious despair is concealed even under what are called the games and amusements of mankind. There is no play in them, for this comes after work."

■■■

Thoreau was no fan of busybodies, so we'll close with this quote, and bid him goodbye until the next time we have occasion to visit him in his cabin in the Massachusetts woods:

"If I knew for certain that a man was coming to my house with the conscious design of doing me good, I should run for my life..."

■■■

A tidy collection of Thoreau's writing, including *Walden, Civil Disobedience,* and *A Week on the Concorde and Merrimack Rivers,* is provided in a Penguin Classic edition called *The Portable Thoreau.* This 612-page paperback lists for $22. I think it's a better buy than some of the less expensive alternatives.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

To catch a thief

Vae Victus: Woe to the Conquered

"To the victor belong the spoils."
—William L. Marcy, 1828

To catch a thief some wags say one must follow the money
to find corrupt practices in those with and without scruples
they won't find their trials and jail terms one bit funny
whether they absconded with greenbacks or Russian rubles

In the Big Apple and D.C. its Michael Cohen be knowin
doing some serious trash talk on All the President's Men
talking to prosecutors about crooks covers he's blowin
he goes to see Special Counsel Mueller again and again

With confessional tell all tattle tale truths Cohen blabs it all
and don't you know Donald Trump's jaws are getting tight
as inside NYC and DC courts and hallowed justice halls
Cohen's ball busting testimony takes dogged bite after bite

Cohen tells tales of Trump's Russian dealing and collusion
with hope for a reduced sentence he makes no illusion.

The Joy of Lying and the Sorrow of Lies

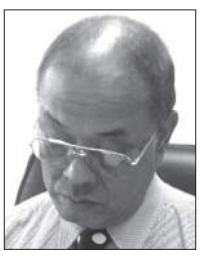
"One of the most striking differences between a cat and a lie is that a cat has only nine lives."
—Mark Twain

The bigly lying media said this twice yesterday
most my empty head is bald what is left is gray
and big crows feet stretch from my beady eyes
I've become quite allergic to all my hair dyes
some lies are infinitely large some pretty small
I've told so many I can't remember them all
my head can not say no as most truth it negates
the minute I tell a whopper another one waits
time passes swiftly I tell more again and again
proudly signing executive orders with my pen
I'm pained by truth and proud of prevarication
as I rattle off lies in many place and situation
oh those lies, so smart, coming out of my head
time flies, truth departs, gone now till I'm dead.

Creation of the elite

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



The CNMI has created the elite versus non-elite class in wages and salaries. We now have the 25 percent highest paid employees versus the majority hauling home poverty income biweekly.

The elite group has more money than those who trail behind in poverty income land the latter picking bread crumbs off the floor.

Why would we want a class of "haves" and "have-nots?"

Nearly 15,000 are in the poverty income group. What's the cause of this many people stuck at this level? Is the hold back funding—single or combined resources—to which there may be issues with shared cost? Is it the lack of training and education to upgrade the skills of the local workforce, thus the delay in concurrent salary increases? But this aspect would seem a natural part of the process, isn't it? Anyway, what's the real issue in the continued imposition of poverty income for these many workers?

With poverty income families are forced to limit expenses to primary family obligations. It includes the first family home, food, car, utilities, medical care and other necessities. After these there's basically nothing left for other family needs.

You can't engage in other family outings like taking the troops to the movies or stop somewhere for a sandwich. Poverty income limits everything to basic needs and obligations as to sacrifice casual family outings.

What's my point? We need better answers than all the speculative queries raised herein. I challenge so-called leadership to resolve the issue forthwith. Or is the NMI suffering from leadership vacuum?

Poverty: What's the root cause of this deepening mess and has this administration done anything concrete to ease family hardship in households throughout the archipelago?

It revolves around a single word most politicians have spouted with ignorance: economy. It is said that a healthy economy lifts all boats in the harbor. How sad that most boats are still stuck in the mud downstairs, though the tide has shifted.

Hope history isn't priming to repeat itself. Let the chapter I closed years ago stay shut. Enough of staring at boiled taro and salt for dinner or gulping faucet water for breakfast before heading to class in the morning. Enough of the wraths of abject poverty!

It's hard telling families caught in this hardship otherwise. They know their school-age kids head to class hardly equipped with basic needs like breakfast, school supplies and decent clothing. They sigh daily praying for help, any help.

Unstated: It's the perennial issue of an uncertain economy that moves north and south happily and unpredictably throughout the course of the year. Eh, it still is the economy, stupid! Did you get that, pal?

Appalling the perennial attitude knowing the beast yet we treat it like some filthy leper who walks by under our nose successfully each trip. It must be policymakers' conundrum founded on ignorance or sheer negligence or both.

Then they return to acknowledge in grand redundancy that employees are still earning poverty level income. When do you put your best foot forward to resolve the issue? You already have an idea so what's your next plan of action?

The NMI isn't necessarily at its best from an organizational standpoint. We heard the economy is on the uptick. Was an effort made to identify which sector improved and would it do better if we rally behind strengthening it? Must secure a sense of purpose to morph into knowing what's in your bag at any given time.

Leadership: Delegate Kilili has reached an agreement with the House Nutrition Subcommittee chair on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to include the NMI in the program. It stands a good chance when national Democrats take over the U.S. House of Representatives this midterm election or January.

Kilili said he's doing the negotiations a year in advance, adding that food stamps here has doubled where some 3,610 families will be eligible by October or next month. He's infused some $32.5 million into the 2014 Agricultural Act.

He pointed out plans by the NMI government to cut benefits and push more families out of the program this year. "I must get the NMI into SNAP" via federal law to make its implementation here mandatory, he noted.

The NMI and Agriculture Department took their time ramping up the pilot program, thus the delay, Kilili noted. "There's still some $22.5 million in unspent funds for 2014." Grandly admirable the courageous ideological assertion to cut dependency on food stamps among the indigenous people.

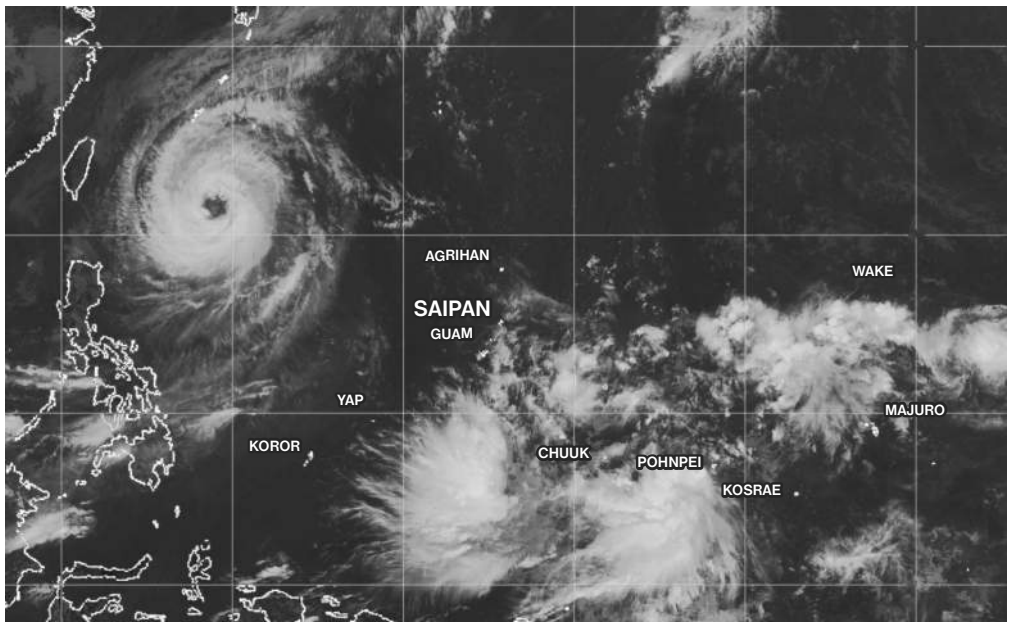
But if Guvana Raffet hasn't improved the strength of the family purse, wouldn't food stamps denial deepen familial hardship?

Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:23 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite images show scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Guam. These are associated with a developing circulation currently east-southeast of Chuuk. The weather balloon from last night shows northwest winds 5 to 15 knots through the lowest 16 thousand feet of the air. Above this the winds gradually turn northeast and increase speed to between 10 and 20 knots through 33 thousand feet. In the upper levels the winds turn east-southeast and increase to between 25 and 35 knots. The buoys reveal east trade-wind swell around 3 feet and west-northwest swell from Trami of 5 to 6 feet.

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	73° / 50°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	88° / 75°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
London	Mostly Sunny	61° / 41°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	86° / 66°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
New York	Partly Cloudy	70° / 62°
Osaka	Rain	72° / 64°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	68° / 45°
Busan	Rain	70° / 64°
Rome	Sunny	81° / 57°
Salem	Thunderstorms	83° / 68°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 54°
Seoul	Sunny	77° / 55°
Tokyo	Rain	75° / 64°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	74° / 61°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:36 AM	LOW TIDE	0.23
9:43 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.86
3:51 PM	LOW TIDE	0.64
9:28 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.86

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:05 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:30 AM	8:32 PM
Saturday	-	9:24 AM	9:18 PM
Sunday	-	10:21 AM	10:07 PM
Monday	-	11:18 AM	11:01 PM
Tuesday	-	12:17 AM	11:58 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA105	4:55am	5:41am	3, 5
UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:35am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	8:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	8:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	8:45am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:30am	8:25am	1
UO43	6:00am	8:40am	1, 3, 5
UA117/159	8:45am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:00am	7:45am	Daily
UA104	11:30pm	12:16am+1	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ625	8:40pm	2:10am+1	7
TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:20pm	2:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	7:45am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174 via GUM	10:25pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
PR110/UA174	10:55pm	7:45am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	7:45am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:25am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:30am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Bill Cosby's sentencing is both a triumph and a tragedy

By JENICE ARMSTRONG
Philadelphia Daily News

PHILADELPHIA—What happened to Bill Cosby on Tuesday is both a triumph and a tragedy.

It's a triumph because his sentence of three to 10 years sends a message to men everywhere that regardless of their wealth or position, it's not OK to drug and sexually assault women. It's also a reminder to all would-be predators that their actions have serious consequences, some of which may not occur until years later.

But it's a tragedy for those among us who once admired Cosby and all that he represented. He really had us duped. We thought of him as America's Dad. We naively confused his Dr. Huxtable persona on "The Cosby Show" for the real Cosby. We bought into his Jell-O pudding, family-man persona.

In reality, Cosby was a sick pervert who slipped the country a mickey the way he did to Andrea Constand at his Cheltenham mansion that night in 2004 when he drugged the young woman, leaving her defenseless to his sexual advances.

Oh, we had plenty of glimpses over the years that the comedian who broke color barriers by becoming the first African American to star in a weekly TV drama wasn't the nice guy he pretended to be. We heard his voice drip with derision when criticizing certain black people for allowing their pants to sag, for speaking slang, and for giving their children unusual names.

But we overlooked the elitist side of his personality because he was the Cos. He did so much for the culture. Cosby contributed millions to black colleges and universities. He made collecting black art cool, and showed white America both on screen and off that two-parent, upper-middle-class black homes exist.

I hated seeing Cosby in shirtsleeves with his hands handcuffed in front of him as officers escorted him through the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown. He was chained like a common criminal.

I take no joy in seeing another black man brought down.

In fact, I secretly didn't want Cosby locked up. Even though he brought it on himself, I kept hoping the former funnyman would be allowed to remain free on appeal or somehow die in his sleep before it got to this. At 81, he's old and legally blind. He looks sickly. He's been shamed and humiliated. Being stripped of all his honorary degrees and the buildings named after him is almost punishment enough.

But then I remember Constand. She deserves to see her rapist punished to the fullest extent of the law. I hope Tuesday's sentencing provided her some much-needed healing and closure. Same for the many other Cosby accusers, whose cases never went to trial but who say they have been similarly hurt. They should be commended for speaking out.

Partly because of them, women everywhere are finding their voices. They're emerging from the shadows and telling their stories. They're fighting back. They're not being shamed. Their daughters are taking note. The men whose names have been associated with the #MeToo movement should be frightened. The tide has shifted. It's a new day, and that's a wonderful thing.

I just wish it wasn't a black man who was the new poster boy for the movement. I wish it wasn't Bill Cosby.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Save the Marpi pool!

Dear Delegate Kilili, Gov. Torres, Sen. Palacios, and Rep. Demapan: My name is Benjamin Byers. From August of 2016 through January of 2018 I had the honor and the pleasure of serving as the law clerk for Justice Perry B. Inos on the Supreme Court of the Northern Mariana Islands. During my time working for the Supreme Court I had the opportunity and privilege to interact with some of you personally, as well as your colleagues and members of your staff on projects ranging from the establishment of the CNMI's Drug Court, to Law and the Freshman Legislator, to government-wide events like the Labor Day Picnic.

Along with my work for the Judiciary, during my time on island I had the opportunity to immerse myself in the warm and welcoming communities that makes up Saipan. I spoke in classrooms as part of the Judiciary's Judges in the Classroom program, I coached middle school and high school mock trial teams at Grace Christian Academy and Saipan International School, I volunteered with Saipan Cares for Animals. Yet among these varied experiences, perhaps the most impactful for me was my volunteer work with the Saipan Swim Club and their new water polo team, which I developed along with coach Jacoby Winkfield. This program continues today under the coaching of Jacoby and Hessel Yntema.

As a volunteer for the Saipan Swim Club I officiated swim meets, including the annual all-schools swim meet. I watched as students, young and old, came together not only to push themselves as athletes, but to make connections with students from other schools and villages that they would never have otherwise met. As the coach of the water polo team, I spent Saturday mornings watching children from ages 8 to 17 learn a new sport and develop teamwork skills that will have lasting benefits in their lives. Working with volunteers like Emma Perez, I watched adults conquer lifelong fears and learn to swim.

I was therefore distressed to learn about the fate of the Marpi pool, which I understand that, without government intervention, will close on Sept. 30. As you are all aware, the Marpi pool is the *only* pool on island capable of hosting large-scale swim meets. It is the only pool which provides adequate lane space and scheduling for programs like the Saipan Swim Club, the Saipan Water Polo Team, and the Tsunami Swim Club. Without the Marpi pool, I am concerned that swimming, which for decades has provided a positive outlet for children and adults alike, will no longer be an accessible sport on island.

I know I am not alone in my concerns. An online petition has already garnered nearly 7,000 signatures at the time I write this letter. Articles in both major island newspapers have highlighted the importance of this facility. There is a deep and obvious community desire to maintain the facility.

I urge you to work together from your respective governmental positions to craft a solution which will save the pool and allow every person in the community to continue to reap its benefits.

Benjamin Byers
via email

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

As of September 28, 2018
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. United Empire Investment	6/26/2018 SPI-2018-X-168	SAIPAN STAR	TANAPAG HARBOR	Ports & Industrial	Approved, 7/27/2018*
2. Eleanor B. Alinas	9/19/2018 SSCH-2018-X-188	Land Clearing	Beach Road, Garapan S	horeline, Coastal	Approved, 9/25/2018*
3. Saipan Sea Ventures	9/24/2018 SPILR-2018-X-189	AST Removal	Puerto Rico	Ports & Industrial, Coastal Hazards	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

PUBLIC NOTICE

15th CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 28, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.
Board of Education Conference Room, Building 1241
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

AGENDA[1]

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
   a. August 29, 2018 Special Board Meeting

II. Public Comments[2]

III. Reports
1. Chair
2. Board Committees
   a. FPA
   b. SARC
3. Commissioner of Education
   a. Financial Status Reports
      i. Federal
      ii. Local
   b. Head Start Program
   c. Others

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business
1. Proclamations
   a. Head Start Month
   b. Anti-Bullying Month
2. Financing for USDA Loan
3. Proposed Personnel Regulations Amendments re Sick Leave & Sick Donations (60-30.2-720, 30.2-780 & 60-30.3-620)
4. Proposed Student Attendance Amendment (60-20-240)
5. Proposed Procurement Amendments Re Protests & Appeals
6. Annual Report School Year 17-18
7. Proposed Data Governance Policy
8. Proposed Amendments to Certification & Licensure
9. Certification and Licensure Report No. 2018-010
10. Commissioner of Education

VI. Executive Session[3]
a. Legal Updates
b. Personnel/Certification
c. Other matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

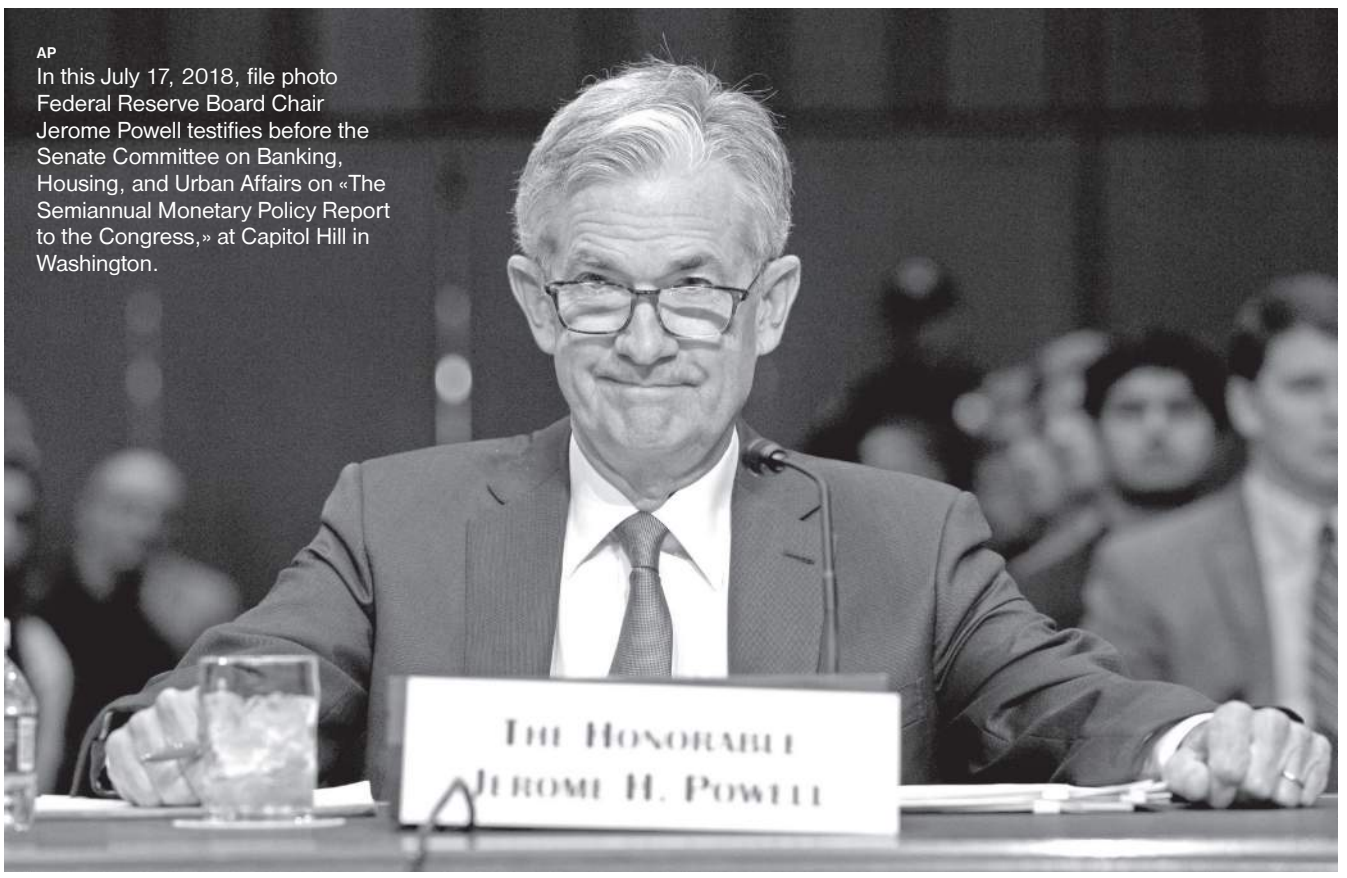
VIII. Adjournment

[1] In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.
[2] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[3] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Business

What a Fed rate hike means for you, at any age

BY SARAH SKIDMORE SELL and STAN CHOE
AP BUSINESS WRITERS



AP
In this July 17, 2018, file photo Federal Reserve Board Chair Jerome Powell testifies before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs on «The Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress,» at Capitol Hill in Washington.

No matter your age, what the Federal Reserve does to interest rates will most likely affect you.

The central bank raised what's called the federal funds rate by a quarter of a percentage point to a range of 2 percent to 2.25 percent Wednesday, the third such increase this year.

An increase creates a ripple effect for rates on a variety of loans and investments.

"Interest rates are going up across a broad range of consumer borrowing," said Fed Chairman Jerome Powell at a press conference following the rate increase. But Powell pointed out that rates are "still quite low by historical levels."

Higher rates can mean different things to people, depending on where they are in life. In general, for people borrowing money, it means life is getting more expensive. For savers, it means slightly bigger rewards. Here's a look at some of the effects:

FOR 20-SOMETHINGS

What's rising even faster than college tuitions? The financing costs to pay for them.

Student-loan rates have been climbing along with the yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which has risen above 3 percent. Undergraduate students taking out federal direct loans this school year will pay a fixed 5.05 percent interest rate. That's a significant jump from the 4.45 percent rate of the prior school year, and it's the highest since 2009-10, when it was 5.6 percent.

The rate is fixed, so direct federal loans taken out for the 2018-19 academic year will keep the 5.05 percent rate. The Fed reiterated Wednesday that it expects to raise rates one more time this year and another three times in 2019. Unless that changes, long-term rates would also rise, so student loans taken out next year will likely have a higher rate.

Interest rates for private loans are already traditionally higher and will likely rise as well.

Additionally, it's easy in your 20s to start to slide down the slippery slope of credit card debt. Try to resist because carrying a balance is only going to get more expensive ahead.

Credit card rates are most sensitive to changes in the federal funds rate, almost directly matching the rate change with a 1.92-point increase since late 2015 when the Fed began to hike rates, said Nick Clements, co-founder of MagnifyMoney.com, a financial information website.

Clements estimates that with this latest hike, the average household that carries credit card debt month to month will pay over $150 in extra interest per year compared with before the rate hikes began. MagnifyMoney estimates 122 million Americans carry credit card debt month to month.

FOR YOUNG(ISH) WORKERS - 30s and 40s

It's a busy time financially—people in this age group may be focused on paying down debts such as auto loans, mortgages and student loans while also trying to stoke their savings.

Pay off any variable-rate debts ASAP. That means paying down credit cards, home equity lines of credit and student loans from private lenders as quickly as possible before these borrowing costs rise.

To put this in perspective, since the Fed began raising rates, the average credit card rate has jumped from 15.78 percent to 17.32 percent; the average home equity line of credit has climbed from 4.75 percent to 6.08 percent, according to Bankrate.com. And those with adjustable rate mortgages expecting a rate reset this year will see the rate jump to 5.25 percent or more.

Speaking of mortgages, because interest rates are on an upward trajectory, new mortgage debt will also most likely be getting more expensive.

The fed funds rate and mortgages don't always move in lockstep for a number of reasons. But since late 2015, the average 30-year fixed mortgage rate has increased from approximately 3.9 percent to 4.6 percent, as of Sept. 13.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US House approves $1.7 billion in disaster aid for Carolinas

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House on Wednesday overwhelmingly passed legislation that would provide $1.7 billion to help residents of the Carolinas and elsewhere recover from recent natural disasters. The aid was added to legislation to keep Federal Aviation Administration programs running beyond month's end. The bill passed 398-23. Lawmakers describe the disaster aid as a down payment. They say billions more will be needed in the months ahead to help communities devastated by Hurricane Florence. Lawmakers are working to extend the FAA's programs for five years while tackling other priorities such as disaster relief.

US, Japan agree to negotiate a free trade agreement

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United States and Japan announced Wednesday they will open negotiations on a bilateral trade agreement between the world's first- and third-largest economies. It's a significant shift by Tokyo which has been a strong advocate of a multi-nation trans-Pacific trade pact that President Donald Trump withdrew from soon after taking office. The move won Japan relief from the immediate threat of punitive tariffs on its auto exports to the U.S. Trump made the announcement after meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in New York on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly. He said that Japan had been unwilling in the past to enter into such talks, but now is and such a deal "will be something very exciting."

Uber agrees to $148M settlement with states over data breach

CHICAGO (AP)—Uber will pay $148 million and tighten data security after the ride-hailing company failed for a year to notify drivers that hackers had stolen their personal information, according to a settlement announced Wednesday. Uber Technologies Inc. reached the agreement with all 50 states and the District of Columbia after a massive data breach in 2016. Instead of reporting it, Uber hid evidence of the theft and paid ransom to ensure the data wouldn't be misused. Uber, whose GPS-tracked drivers pick up riders who summon them from cellphone apps, learned in November 2016 that hackers had accessed personal data, including driver's license information, for roughly 600,000 Uber drivers in the U.S. The company acknowledged the breach in November 2017, saying it paid $100,000 in ransom for the stolen information to be destroyed.

Included in House FAA bill: Minimum size for airline seats

The House voted Wednesday to direct the federal government to set a minimum size for airline seats, bar passengers from being kicked off overbooked planes, and consider whether to restrict animals on planes. Those and other passenger-related provisions were included in a bill to authorize Federal Aviation Administration programs for five years. The House approved the measure by a 398-23 vote, sending it to the Senate, which faces a Sunday deadline. The FAA bill is also notable for what is not included. Lawmakers abandoned a plan backed by airlines to privatize the nation's air-traffic-control system. And congressional negotiators dropped a proposal to crack down on "unreasonable" airline fees. ***(AP)***

Congress sends bill to Trump to avert government shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress has approved a bill keeping the government open through Dec. 7, as lawmakers move to avert a government shutdown looming next week. The $854 billion bill also funds the military and a host of civilian agencies for the next year. The House approved the bill, 361-61, on Wednesday, a week after the Senate approved it, 93-7. The measure now goes to President Donald Trump, who said he will sign it. Trump's signature would avert a partial government shutdown set to begin Monday, weeks ahead of the Nov. 6 elections that will determine control of Congress. The spending bill includes $675 billion for the Defense Department and boosts military pay by 2.6 percent, the largest pay raise in nine years. It also increases spending for Health and Human Services, Education, Labor and other agencies, including a 5 percent boost for the National Institutes of Health

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
26,385.28	2,905.97	7,990.37
−106.93	−9.59	−17.10
−0.40%	−0.33%	−0.21%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3831	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8138	Russian Ruble	65.8918
British Pound	0.7611	Indian Rupee	71.9396	Singapore Dollar	1.3664
Canadian Dollar	1.3046	Japanese Yen	112.6770	South Korean Won	1090.35
Chinese Yuan	6.7636	Malaysian Ringgit	4.0978	Swiss Franc	0.9667
Euro	0.8546	New Zealand Dollar	1.5063	Taiwan Dollar	30.0721
		Philippine Peso	53.2064	Thailand Baht	32.3975

Nation

THIS BOY'S CALENDAR

A window to Kavanaugh's summer of '82

ACROSS THE NATION

Prosecutors charge 4 in death of missing Wisconsin teenager

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Prosecutors have charged four people in the death of a teenager who disappeared in Milwaukee last year. Jovanny Puga's body hasn't been found, but authorities say they believe he was beaten and thrown into the Milwaukee River. Puga, of Green Bay, was 18 when he last contacted his mother in February 2017. Milwaukee County prosecutors filed charges Tuesday. Nineteen-year-old Brandan Guyton-Denn of Green Bay, 19-year-old Shawn Leitner of Manitowoc and 19-year-old Jaleel Schultz of Milwaukee are charged with first-degree reckless homicide. Nineteen-year-old Emma Brud, of De Pere, is charged with harboring or aiding a felon. The complaint says Brud told investigators that Guyton-Denn wanted revenge because Puga had beaten a friend of his.

Man with long immigration record is charged with killings

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man with a violent criminal history who was deported six times had no outstanding warrants when questioned last month about the disappearance of his aunt and so he was released, Houston police said Wednesday, when the man was charged in Los Angeles with the beating deaths of three men. Immigration records are generally not public, so it remained a mystery how Ramon Escobar, 47, won an appeal in immigration court in 2016 and why he remained free after a subsequent arrest for assault. The Aug. 30 encounter by Escobar with Houston police came two days after his aunt vanished and marked his last brush with the law before his arrest in California this week. Escobar was charged Wednesday in Los Angeles County with three counts of murder, five counts of attempted murder and four counts of second-degree robbery in attacks involving homeless men.

80,000 people died of flu last winter in US

NEW YORK (AP)—An estimated 80,000 Americans died of flu and its complications last winter—the disease's highest death toll in at least four decades. The director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Robert Redfield, revealed the total in an interview Tuesday night with The Associated Press. Flu experts knew it was a very bad season, but at least one found the size of the estimate surprising. "That's huge," said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University vaccine expert. The tally was nearly twice as much as what health officials previously considered a bad year, he said. In recent years, flu-related deaths have ranged from about 12,000 to 56,000, according to the CDC.

Sex offender pleads not guilty to killing woman, 89

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A convicted sex offender pleaded not guilty Wednesday to killing an 89-year-old Oregon woman who had been missing for a week before a body believed to be hers was found in his trunk. Timothy Mackley, 58, appeared in a Portland court and waived his right to a probable cause hearing. His court-appointed attorney, Kathleen Dunn, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Mackley was arrested Monday when police found a body in his car trunk during a traffic stop, Portland police Sgt. Christopher Burley said. The body is "likely" that of Marcine Herinck, who was reported missing on Sept. 19 from her home, Burley said in a statement. Police are awaiting confirmation on the body's identity from the Oregon Medical Examiner.

Texas executes man in the torture, drowning of ex-roommate

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP)—A Texas inmate who taunted a jury to sentence him to death was executed Wednesday evening for torturing and drowning an East Texas woman in his bathtub and then stuffing her body into a barrel. Troy Clark was condemned for the May 1998 slaying of a former roommate, Christina Muse of Tyler. Authorities said that Clark, a drug dealer, had worried that Muse would snitch on him. Clark chuckled as he addressed several friends watching through a window a few feet from him, telling them a number of times that he loved them and "it's all good." "I'm not the one who killed Christina," he said. "But, hey, whatever makes you happy."

By STEPHEN BRAUN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The letters are scrawled in blue ink across a calendar page from June 1982: BEACH WEEK. The big, bold font seems to indicate the importance of this nine-day stretch on the social calendar of a young Brett Kavanaugh, especially amid more mundane entries like "haircut" and "pick up pictures."

The 36-year-old calendar was presented by Kavanaugh as an alibi against an allegation of sexual assault that will be the subject of an intensely watched hearing Thursday on Capitol Hill, which could decide whether he will be confirmed as a justice of the Supreme Court.

But look closer. You will also see a time capsule from a long-ago summer and a window into the hard-partying prep school culture in which acquaintances say the future federal judge was an enthusiastic participant. This included Beach Week, an annual rite of Washington-area high schoolers that is as anticipated by teens as it is feared by their parents.

Kavanaugh has flatly denied the allegations of three women who have come forward to accuse him of sexual misconduct amid drunken parties during high school in suburban Maryland and college at Yale.

In earlier public statements, he distanced himself from the boozy reputation of boys from Georgetown Prep, portraying his younger self as a church-going, high-performing scholar athlete.

This image released by the Senate Judiciary Committee, Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2018 in Washington, shows Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh's calendar, from the Summer of 1982. AP

"I drank beer with my friends, usually on weekends," he said. "Sometimes I had too many. In retrospect, I said and did things in high school that make me cringe now."

Senators are likely to key in on his shifting descriptions of his high school years as they investigate a claim by Christine Blasey Ford that Kavanaugh tried to rape her during a small house party that summer. Ford gave her account of an abusive encounter with Kavanaugh in an article in The Washington Post.

Since then, other women have gone public with allegations against Kavanaugh. In an article published Sunday by The New Yorker, a Yale University classmate, Deborah Ramirez, described Brett Kavanaugh placing his penis in front of her during a dormitory party. In a sworn declaration released Wednesday, Julie Swetnick of Washington, D.C., said she witnessed Kavanaugh "consistently engage in excessive drinking and inappropriate contact of a sexual nature with women in the early 1980s."

In his prepared statement for Thursday's hearing, Kavanaugh said: "Sexual assault is horrific. It is morally wrong. It is illegal. It is contrary to my religious faith." Referring to Ford—the only accuser asked to testify at Thursday's hearing—he said: "I have never done that to her or to anyone. I am innocent of this charge."

Efforts to gauge Kavanaugh's credibility have prompted a close examination in recent days of various pieces of evidence from his life more than three decades ago.

The nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court

Olivier Douliery/Abaca Press/TNS

Olivier Douliery/Abaca Press/TNS

Sept. 4: Hearings are held by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. The hearings are frequently disrupted by protesters.

Sept. 13: Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., forwards a letter to the FBI from a woman accusing Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct.

Sept. 16: A professor, Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, comes forward as the author of the letter, accusing Kavanaugh of sexual assault at a party during high school.

JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER

June 27: Justice Anthony Kennedy, in a letter to the president, announces his retirement, effective July 31.

July 10: Brett Kavanaugh, a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, is nominated to be a Supreme Court justice. Kavanaugh was added to Trump's public list of potential nominees in November 2017, after Justice Neil Gorsuch was confirmed.

Sept. 21: President Trump questions Dr. Ford's allegations in a series of tweets, saying "if the attack on Dr. Ford was as bad as she says, charges would have been immediately filed with local Law Enforcement Authorities[sic] by either her or her loving parents."
Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., pledges in a speech at the Values Voter Summit that Judge Kavanaugh will be confirmed.

Sept. 23: A story in The New Yorker details a second allegation from Deborah Ramirez. She accuses Kavanaugh of exposing himself to her at a party while they were students at Yale.
Attorney Michael Avenatti announces that he is representing another woman "with credible information regarding Judge Kavanaugh."

Source: White House, Supreme Court, U.S. Senate, TNS contributors
Graphic: Tribune News Service

Asia

Trump says he believes nuclear deal with N. Korea possible

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—President Donald Trump on Wednesday defended his work to settle a nuclear deal with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, saying he has given up nothing but his time during a June summit yet stands on the cusp of denuclearizing the North.

In a wide-ranging news conference on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, Trump told reporters that despite tough U.S. sanctions against the North staying in place, he believes that Kim wants to get a deal done because of their close ties.

"We have a very good relationship. He likes me, I like him, we get along," Trump said. "He wants to make a deal and I'd like to make a deal."

He wouldn't put a timeframe, however, on when the two leaders might settle the standoff. "We're not playing the time game," he said.

It has lasted for decades, flummoxed a long line of U.S. and South Korean presidents and had many fearing war last year during a series of increasingly powerful North Korean weapons tests that experts believe put the country close to a long-time goal of viably targeting any spot on the U.S. mainland.

Trump and his top diplomat, Mike Pompeo, are trying to get past the deadlock that has followed the Singapore summit. Pompeo is planning to visit Pyongyang next month to prepare for a second Kim-Trump summit. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Wednesday also said separately that he wants to meet with Kim though no details had been decided on yet.

Trump's optimistic comments come amid widespread skepticism that Kim will actually relinquish an arsenal that Pyongyang likely sees as the only way to guarantee the Kim dynasty's continued authoritarian rule.

Although Trump maintained that he'd given up nothing in his dealings with Kim, he has faced criticism for his decision during the Singapore summit to scrap annual U.S. military drills with ally South Korea. Critics called it a concession for the North, which has long railed against the drills as invasion preparation and proof of U.S. hostility.

Trump said Wednesday that he'd long wanted to stop the drills, which had always been portrayed by the allies as defensive in nature, because of their high cost and said he could restart them if needed. "For the taxpayer, we're saving a fortune," Trump said.

Trump also made the stunning claim that former President Barack Obama told Trump that Obama was "very close" to going to war with the North.

"If I wasn't elected," Trump said, "you'd be in a war."

The State Department said Pompeo was invited by Kim to Pyongyang, the North's capital, "to make further progress on the implementation" of agreements made during the Singapore summit and to set up another leaders' meeting.

Pompeo met earlier Wednesday with North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho at the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York. Pompeo said on Twitter that his meeting with Ri was "very positive." There were no details immediately available about what the diplomats discussed.

"Much work remains, but we will continue to move forward," Pompeo said.

Hapless helpers recount own rescue by divers from Thai cave

BANGKOK (AP)—There were a host of heroes in July's dramatic rescue of 13 members of a youth soccer team from a cave in northern Thailand ... and then there were the hapless would-be helpers from the Thai Well Water Association.

It turns out that 17 people in all were rescued by the expert foreign cave divers who rushed to lend their unique abilities to save the boys and their coach.

The story of the first four people to be rescued— barely reported and now mostly forgotten—was recounted Wednesday by the association's president, Surapin Chaichompoo, who explained how he and three employees spent two days draining water from the cave in an attempt to help the rescue, took a nap, and found themselves trapped inside with the water rising.

He said that on their third day of being trapped, two British divers searching for the boys stumbled upon them and improvised a rescue, taking them out one by one after giving them a 30-minute crash course in diving. Surapin said they made their way through the murky waters by swimming and sometimes walking, trying to avoid sharp obstacles in the low visibility.

Surapin said he was unable to contact them afterward, but would still like to thank them.

"I really owe my life to these two divers. They were here to help the 13 people but I got stuck first after I went in to work. If they didn't save me that day, I wouldn't be here today," Surapin said by phone from the northern city of Chiang Mai. "The same for the other three people. I really owe them, the two divers John and Richard. If they are abroad, I will fly over to personally thank them myself."

The tale of the little-known first rescue resurfaced Saturday when Rick Stanton—who with diving buddy John Volanthen discovered the four on June 28, and the cave boys on July 2—gave a talk at the annual "Hidden Earth" conference of British cavers in North Somerset in England, according to a report on the website Darkness Below, which carries news for underground explorers.

FINAL RESPECTS NGUYEN VAN DIEP/VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY/AP

Vietnam's Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong, front right, Chairwoman of the National Assembly Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, front left, and an honor guard carry the coffin of the late President Tran Dai Quang in Hanoi, Vietnam, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2018. Thousands of people lined the streets of Hanoi on Thursday to pay their last respects to the late president. Quang died on Sept. 21 at age 61.

Elaborate throne for Japan's next emperor arrives in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP)—The monumental imperial throne for the coronation of Japan's new emperor has arrived in Tokyo from an ancient imperial palace in Kyoto more than a year ahead of time, officials said Wednesday.

Crown Prince Naruhito will become Japan's next emperor on May 1 of next year, the day after his 84-year-old father, Emperor Akihito, abdicates.

The Takamikura throne will be used at a ceremony in October 2019, when Naruhito formally announces his succession. Naruhito will ascend to the elevated, octagonal structure to proclaim his enthronement before selected guests from around the world.

The 6.5-meter-high (21-foot-high) canopied structure, decorated with lacquerware, gold and other ornaments, has been used for coronations and other key imperial rituals since around the eighth century, according to the Imperial Household Agency. It was last used by Akihito in 1990 and has since been stashed away at the Kyoto palace.

The structure was taken apart for its delivery to Tokyo, where it will be repaired, fine-tuned and reassembled by March, the palace said. It comes with a similar structure for Naruhito's wife, Masako, the next empress. Together, the structures are made up of 3,000 parts.

The 58-year-old Naruhito will be the 126th emperor of one of the world's oldest monarchies. He will be Japan's first emperor born after World War II.

The current structure was built for his great-grandfather Taisho's coronation in 1915 and was also used for his grandfather Hirohito, who was revered as the god of Shinto until the end of World War II, which Japan fought in his name.

Pope urges Chinese Catholics to trust, reconcile after deal

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis urged Chinese Catholics on Wednesday to trust him and make concrete gestures of reconciliation following a landmark deal over bishop appointments that is aimed at ending decades of estrangement between the Vatican and Beijing.

In a letter to the Chinese faithful, Francis also called for greater dialogue between local priests and government authorities to ensure that ordinary church activities can be carried out, while encouraging the opening of "a new chapter" in official bilateral cooperation.

China's estimated 12 million Catholics are split between those belonging to the government-backed Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, which is outside the pope's authority, and an underground church loyal to the pope. Underground priests and parishioners are frequently detained and harassed.

The letter appeared aimed at acknowledging the deep reservations of some underground faithful, for whom the deal represents a sell-out to the Communist government and betrayal of their decades of loyalty to the pope.

Francis acknowledged these Chinese "sense themselves somehow abandoned" and expressed his "sincere admiration" for their fidelity over the years. But he asked them to trust him.

The aim, he said, is to "initiate an unprecedented process that we hope will help to heal the wounds of the past, restore full communion among all Chinese Catholics, and lead to a phase of greater fraternal cooperation."

The letter follows the deal signed Saturday governing the naming of bishops in China, an issue that has split the church and vexed relations for decades. The agreement regularizes the status of seven bishops who had been appointed by Beijing over the years without papal consent, and sets out a process of dialogue going forward to name new ones. Francis says he, not Beijing, ultimately will name new bishops.

While the deal addressed a crucial aspect of church governance in China, it didn't address more pastoral issues of unifying split communities, which the letter published Wednesday aims to do.

"The Catholic community in China is called to be united, so as to overcome the divisions of the past that have caused, and continue to cause, great suffering in the hearts of many pastors and faithful," Francis wrote. "All Christians, none excluded, must now offer gestures of reconciliation and communion."

World

In Oman, 10 members of single family die in house fire

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Police in Oman say 10 members of a single family have died after suffocating in a fire at their home in the sultanate.

The Royal Oman Police said on Twitter on Thursday that the fire happened at a home in the village of Khor al-Hamam in the country's Saham region.

Omani civil defense officials say firefighters found the dead after responding to the fire in the village, some 165 kilometers, or about 100 miles, northwest of Oman's capital, Muscat. The village sits along the country's coast with the Gulf of Oman.

Both police and civil defense officials say the family suffocated in the smoke from the fire. The police have asked families in the country to install smoke detectors in their homes.

Nearly 400,000 'excess deaths' caused by South Sudan war

JUBA, South Sudan (AP)— South Sudan's civil war has caused nearly 400,000 "excess deaths" since fighting erupted in late 2013, a new report funded by the U.S. State Department said Wednesday after years of uncertainty.

The report by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine estimates that "violent injuries" caused about half of those 382,900 deaths. Increased risk of disease and reduced access to health care contributed to others, it said.

The civil war's death toll has long been unknown, with estimates in the tens of thousands.

"To our knowledge this is the first comprehensive estimate of how many people have died because of the war," Francesco Checchi, a lead investigator on the study, told The Associated Press. "Every day that goes by, hundreds more lives may be lost."

"I think this figure is much more realistic than the 50,000 which has been used for so long," Klem Ryan, a former official with the United Nations mission in South Sudan who later served as coordinator of the U.N. panel of experts monitoring sanctions on the country, told the AP.

Counting the dead in the civil war is difficult as so much occurs in remote locations, Ryan said. "However, that's not justification for not compiling what we did know and pointing to the gaps."

The new report, based on statistical modeling and not peer reviewed, says the deaths appeared to peak in 2016 and 2017. Fresh fighting broke out in the capital, Juba, when a peace deal collapsed in July 2016 and the violence spread into other regions. Most of the deaths occurred in the country's south and northeast and among adult males, the report says.

The striking new estimate comes weeks after the warring sides signed what the government called a "final final" peace deal. It returns rebel leader Riek Machar to his role as vice president to President Salva Kiir, a situation that sparked the conflict when their supporters clashed along ethnic lines. Machar fled the post again during the 2016 fighting.

The United States and others have expressed skepticism that this new peace deal will hold and some fighting has been reported, with each side blaming the other.

A government spokesman, Ateny Wek Ateny, told the AP that he could not confirm or deny the new estimated death toll and blamed killings on the armed opposition. "You can't collect the data."

South Sudan's civil war also has sent more than 2 million people fleeing in Africa's largest refugee crisis since the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

The new report calls for a stronger humanitarian response in one of the world's most dangerous countries for aid workers. The U.N. has repeatedly called on the government to allow more access.

The report "should also spur warring factions to conduct war according to its rules, instead of attacking civilians and humanitarian actors," Checchi said.

APPEAL LOSS

This Wednesday, March 7, 2018 file photo shows the submarine UC3 Nautilus of Danish inventor Peter Madsen in Copenhagen, Denmark. Peter Madsen, convicted of torturing and murdering Swedish reporter Kim Wall last year, lost his appeal against his life sentence Wednesday, shortly after he apologized to the victim's family.

AP

UK investigative group: Spy poisoning suspect is GRU colonel

MOSCOW (AP)—An investigative group in Britain said Wednesday that it has identified one of the two suspects in the poisoning of an ex-Russian spy in the U.K. as a highly decorated colonel in the Russian military intelligence agency GRU.

The group, Bellingcat, said the suspect, whose passport name was Ruslan Boshirov, is in fact Col. Anatoliy Chepiga, who in 2014 was awarded Russia's highest medal, the Hero of Russia.

But beyond a photo from Chepiga's 2003 passport file resembling Boshirov, the report didn't contain further proof that Boshirov and Chepiga are the same person.

Britain has charged Boshirov and another suspect, Alexander Petrov, with trying to kill Russian ex-spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter on March 4 with the Soviet-designed nerve agent Novichok in the English city of Salisbury. Britain has said the attack received approval "at a senior level of the Russian state," an accusation Moscow has fiercely denied.

A spokeswoman for Russia's Foreign Ministry, Maria Zakharova, rejected Bellingcat's claim, saying on Facebook that it is part of an "information campaign" against Russia.

Bellingcat relies on social media and open sources in its investigations. The group has heavily focused on Russia, exposing its military activities in Ukraine, Syria and elsewhere.

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES
TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PERIMETER FENCE REPLACEMENT
PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the Perimeter Fence Replacement at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via hand delivery, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, October 5, 2018, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2018.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Date: September 6, 2018

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
KANNAT TABLA QUARRY OPERATION

CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS SUPPLY, INC.
PERMIT NO. SMS-95-X-48

Pursuant to NMIAC § 15-10-220(a)(4), the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the Construction and Materials Supply, Inc. (CMS) quarry operation in Kannat Tabla, Saipan.

CMS is currently engaging in quarrying activities under Permit No. SMS-95-X-48. This activity is situated on Lot Nos. 035 H 01 and 035 H 02 measuring a total of about 60,481 square meters of public land, more or less.

The public hearing for the above-mentioned quarry operations is scheduled for **Thursday, October 4, 2018, at 5PM.** The venue for this public hearing will be in "**Building S**" at the Northern Marianas College (NMC) campus in As Terlaje Hill.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 303, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304 or by fax at (670) 664-8315. The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at (670) 664-8300 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the project.

/s/Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

MARIANAS
VISITORS AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO BID
MVA-ITB-18-2010

PASEO DE MARIANAS PEDESTRIAN MALL IMPROVEMENTS

Submission Date:	**December 14, 2018**
Time:	**3:00 pm**
Submit sealed ITB to:	Procurement Office Marianas Visitors Authority P.O. Box 500861 Saipan, MP 96950

A Mandatory Pre- BID Conference will be held on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 9:00 AM in the main conference room at the MVA office in San Jose. A site walk will be conducted immediately after the pre-BID in order to further explain the project, and allow interested firms to become familiarized with the site. No BID will be accepted from any firm which fails to attend this mandatory pre-BID conference and site walk.

Interested parties may pick up the ITB package at the Marianas Visitors Authority office between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

Science & Technology

Facebook unveils Quest, its new virtual-reality headset

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is off to a slow start in his mission to bring virtual reality to the masses, so perhaps it's appropriate his company's next VR headset will be called Quest.

The headset from Facebook's Oculus division will be a stand-alone device that won't require a smartphone or a connection to a personal computer to create artificial worlds.

The Quest won't be available until next spring, although Zuckerberg unveiled the new headset at an Oculus conference held Wednesday in San Jose, California.

Priced at $399, the Quest will cost twice as much as the less powerful, stand-alone Oculus Go released earlier this year. But it's the same price as the Oculus Rift that tethers users to a PC.

Zuckerberg eventually hopes to have 1 billion people using virtually reality, but he acknowledged Wednesday that Facebook may not have even reached 1 percent of that goal more than four years after paying $2 billion to buy Oculus.

That implies fewer than 10 million people are using Oculus products, and recent data from the research firm International Data Corp. shows the still-nascent VR market has been losing momentum.

Shipments of VR headsets dropped 34 percent from last year during the April-June period, according to IDC. But the Oculus Go and a copycat, budget-priced headset from China's Xiaomi fared reasonably well, IDC said, with 212,000 devices shipped. That was even though they weren't available for the entire second quarter.

AP

This undated product image provided by Oculus shows the virtual reality headset Quest, which Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg unveiled at an Oculus conference on Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2018.

For all of 2018, IDC predicts shipments of VR headsets and devices built for a similar technology known as augmented reality will increase 31 percent from last year to 4.2 million.

That's still a relatively small number for a form of technology that has been drawing major investments from Facebook and other industry heavyweights such as Google, Microsoft, Sony, Samsung and Apple.

As he was last year when he announced the Oculus Go, Zuckerberg is counting on the Quest to widen VR's appeal. VR so far has attracted people interested in playing video games on them, but Zuckerberg believes it's only a matter of time before outside developers introduce other applications that will help lure people into buy one of Oculus' three different headsets to enter artificial realms.

"This is the basic roadmap," Zuckerberg said after showing off the Quest. "This is what we need to do for VR to succeed and get to the future we want."

Zinc-air batteries provide power in remote areas

NEW YORK (AP)—Remote villages in Africa and Asia are receiving electricity using a little-known type of technology: zinc-air batteries.

The goal is to provide a battery that can capture renewable energy and store it for later use.

California-based NantEnergy said Wednesday it has created a rechargeable zinc-air battery storage system that can provide power at a lower cost than lithium-ion systems.

The technology has been deployed in more than 110 villages serving 200,000 people who have no other access to electricity in their communities, said NantEnergy chairman Patrick Soon-Shiong.

"If you look at a map of Earth at night and you see where it's darkest, it's in Africa, Asia and developing countries," said Soon-Shiong, who is also the owner of the Los Angeles Times. "To reduce cost and be competitive with fossil fuels is critical."

Companies are working to develop alternatives to lithium-ion or lead-acid batteries commonly used for energy storage, aiming to create a product that's cheaper and more environmentally friendly.

NantEnergy says its zinc-air battery system can deliver energy for $100 per kilowatt hour.

"Today the only batteries that are in that price range are lead-acid batteries," said Ramkumar Krishnan, chief technology officer of NantEnergy.

By comparison, lithium-ion batteries vary in price, but often range from $300 to $500 per kilowatt hour, according to the Energy Storage Association. Companies such as Tesla have been pushing to lower battery prices into the $100-$200 per kilowatt hour range.

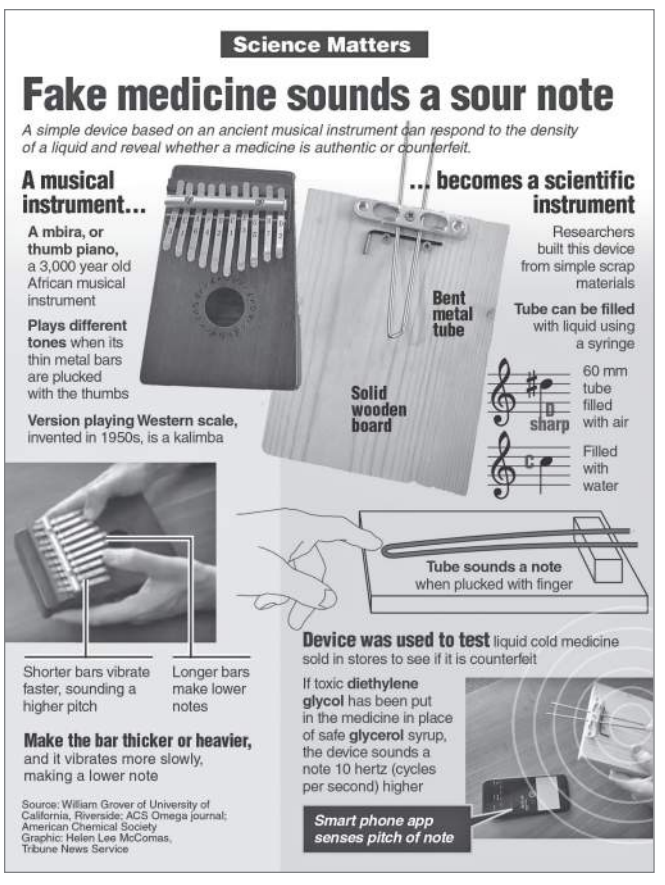
"If this is true, it would be great," Jay Whitacre, director of the Wilson E. Scott Institute for Energy Innovation at Carnegie Mellon University, said of NantEnergy's efforts. "If these guys even get close to this price point of $100 per kilowatt hour it is exciting and disruptive...If you can get to that, what you end up with is a technology that is really economical and can be used in many ways."

Whitacre said he would like to see data on how the batteries have performed to assess the impact of what the company achieved.

"It's not just how much it costs when you buy it, it's how long it lasts," Whitacre added. "I have no reason to think that it doesn't work, but I also would need to see some evidence to support these claims. Extraordinary claims require extraordinary support."

Krishnan did not immediately provide performance data on the batteries to support NantEnergy's claims.

The company is deploying its batteries to remote villages to establish "microgrids," which are localized power sources that distribute energy to homes, communities or businesses without being connected to a traditional utility's electric grid.


Science Matters
Fake medicine sounds a sour note
A simple device based on an ancient musical instrument can respond to the density of a liquid and reveal whether a medicine is authentic or counterfeit.
A musical instrument…
A mbira, or thumb piano, a 3,000 year old African musical instrument
Plays different tones when its thin metal bars are plucked with the thumbs
Version playing Western scale, invented in 1950s, is a kalimba
… becomes a scientific instrument
Researchers built this device from simple scrap materials
Bent metal tube
Tube can be filled with liquid using a syringe
Solid wooden board
60 mm tube filled with air
D sharp
C
Filled with water
Tube sounds a note when plucked with finger
Shorter bars vibrate faster, sounding a higher pitch
Longer bars make lower notes
Make the bar thicker or heavier, and it vibrates more slowly, making a lower note
Device was used to test liquid cold medicine sold in stores to see if it is counterfeit
If toxic diethylene glycol has been put in the medicine in place of safe glycerol syrup, the device sounds a note 10 hertz (cycles per second) higher
Smart phone app senses pitch of note
Source: William Grover of University of California, Riverside; ACS Omega journal; American Chemical Society
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

TECH Q&A: How to fix problems with e-mail settings

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Q: When I reinstalled Microsoft's Office 365, its Outlook e-mail program unexpectedly changed my e-mail settings from POP (Post Office Protocol) to IMAP (internet Message Access Protocol). This is an entirely different way of handling e-mail, and doesn't match the type of mail account I have. How can I change my e-mail settings back to POP?

A: You can make the change, but here are things to consider:

First, do you really want a POP e-mail account? The Outlook program in Office 365 automatically sets up e-mail accounts to use IMAP because that's currently the preferred way to handle mail.

IMAP allows an e-mail to be read from any of several different devices, such as a PC, a phone or a tablet computer. That's possible because IMAP keeps the original message on your e-mail provider's mail server; each device merely copies the e-mail from there. In POP, an older e-mail technology, only one device (in this case, your PC) can read an e-mail. That's because POP downloads the original e-mail to your PC, then erases it from the mail server.

If you prefer to have a POP mail account, you'll have to set it up manually in Outlook. You must first add your e-mail account to Outlook using the POP settings, then erase your previous account that used the IMAP settings (see tinyurl.com/yczcnfcf).

If you decide instead to use the IMAP settings, make no changes in Outlook. Instead, go to your internet service provider's e-mail website and convert your existing POP account to one using IMAP.

Second, is your choice of IMAP or POP being influenced by an Office 365 update problem? Earlier this year, an update unintentionally prevented Outlook from receiving new IMAP mail. Fortunately, there are several solutions to this problem (see tinyurl.com/yavxcku4); the easiest is to uninstall an update named either KB2837618 or KB2837643. To do that, go to Control Panel. In the "view by" drop-down box, choose "large icons," then choose "programs and features." On the left side of the menu, click "view installed updates." Find either of the updates listed above, right click it and click "uninstall."

Q: When I view Yahoo Mail using the Google Chrome browser on my Windows 10 PC, I regularly get the warning message "Your Yahoo account settings are out of date." But when I checked Yahoo's settings, they were current. Also, I never get this warning when I use the Mozilla Firefox browser on my Windows 7 PC. Is this a Yahoo, Windows 10 or browser problem? How do I get rid of it?

A: It's probably a Chrome browser problem that can be solved by removing old, unneeded files.

Click the three dots at the top right of the browser window. From the drop-down menu choose "more tools," and from the next menu select "clear browsing data."

You'll be given a menu listing "browsing history," "cookies and other site data" and "cached images and files" make sure the boxes in front of "cookies" and "cached" are checked. (After deleting cookies, you may need to sign in to some sites again.) At the top of the menu, select a time period (choose "all time" to get rid of everything.) Then click "clear data."

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Oklahoma astronaut corn maze photographed from space

HYDRO, Okla. (AP)—It's apt that a maze cut into an Oklahoma cornfield featuring the likeness of a former NASA astronaut can be seen from space—and has been photographed by a satellite orbiting Earth. The image of Oklahoma-born Thomas P. Stafford is cut into a 10-acre field at P Bar Farms in Hydro, about 60 miles (100 kilometers) west of Oklahoma City. The maze was created in partnership with the Stafford Air and Space Museum, named for the astronaut, in nearby Weatherford. A satellite photographed the tribute from its orbit 400 miles (650 kilometers) away. The 88-year-old Stafford is a Weatherford native whose space missions included commanding the Apollo flight that linked with a Soviet spacecraft in 1975. It was the first meeting of American astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts in space.

Plants, but no pants: Florida man gardens in the nude

STUART, Fla. (AP) — Being in touch with nature is one thing. But gardening au naturel is quite another for some neighbors of a Florida man who's been doing yard work in the nude. The miffed residents tell news outlets they've called the Martin County Sheriff's Office, but the man continues to do yard work naked. Sheriff William Snyder tells WFTV he believes the man's refusal to wear clothes has breached two statutes: lewd and lascivious behavior and breach of peace. He says authorities will begin taking statements from neighbors. Neighbor Melissa Ny tells WPBF the man was bent over winding up a garden hose on Sunday evening when she put the trash out. Neighbor Aimee Canterbury says she's just taught her six kids to look the other way if the neighbor is naked.

Six Flags St. Louis offers perks for customer coffin time

EUREKA, Mo. (AP)—Six contestants for a promotion at Six Flags St. Louis will compete for a $300 prize, season tickets and other perks, and all they have to do is spend 30 hours in a coffin. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports that participants chosen for the ghoulish contest will bide their time in 2-by-7-foot coffins from 1 p.m. Oct. 13 to 7 p.m. Oct. 14 at the park. The contest celebrates the 30th year of Fright Fest. Contestants get a brief hourly bathroom break, but otherwise remain coffin-bound. All who complete the challenge get two 2019 Gold Season passes and other park prizes. If more than one makes it to 30 hours, a drawing will determine who gets the $300. One more perk: Successful coffin dwellers get to keep the coffin.

State investigating restaurant that calmed lobsters with pot

SOUTHWEST HARBOR, Maine (AP)—State health inspectors are investigating a Maine lobster restaurant that tried to mellow out lobsters with marijuana. The Portland Press Herald reports Charlotte's Legendary Lobster Pound in Southwest Harbor remains open but has stopped allowing customers to request meat from lobsters sedated with marijuana. Owner Charlotte Gill is a state-licensed medical marijuana caregiver. Gill said Friday she had started offering "smoked" lobster meat recently and hopes to resume sales by mid-October. Maine Department of Health and Human Services spokeswoman Emily Spencer wouldn't say whether the state had asked Gill to halt such sales. It's unknown whether pot smoke actually calms lobsters or has any effect on their meat.

Flyers introduce odd-looking mascot, soak in the comments

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Philadelphia Flyers have introduced an odd-looking new team mascot—a 7-foot fuzzy creature named Gritty with a wild, orange beard. The character's debut triggered an outpouring of comments online, including "Good luck sleeping tonight, Flyers fans" and comparisons to ZZ Top and the Muppets. Twitter users created memes with Gritty taking the place of horror-movie villains and splicing his head onto other disturbing images. The cross-state rival Pittsburgh Penguins tweeted, "lol ok"—to which Gritty responded, "Sleep with one eye open tonight, bird." The reaction seemed to be exactly what the Flyers were going for. Gritty's final tweet of the day included the message, "Goodnight, internet," and a photo of the crazed-looking mascot squeezing what looked to be Champagne out of a squirt bottle.

In this Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2018 photo, bushes and seaside vegetation along a beach at Aitoliko, in western Greece, are covered in thick spiders' webs. The spiders in Aitoliko seem spurred into overdrive by an explosion in populations of insects they eat, thousands of little spiders in the western town have spun a sticky white line extending for a few hundred meters along the shoreline. AP

Greek spiders spin giant web over shore

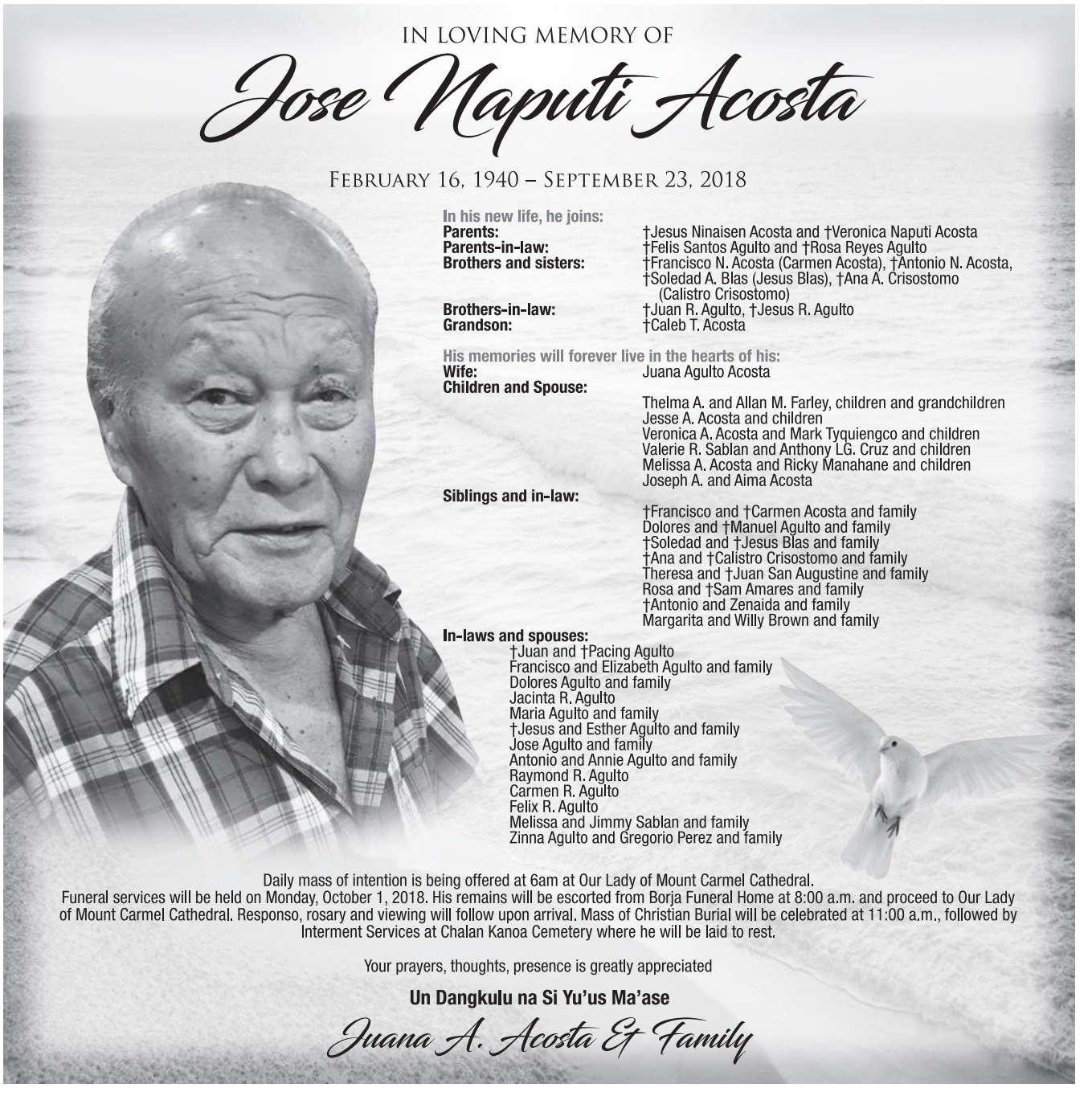
It's not quite the World Wide Web—but the spiders of Aitoliko in Greece have made a good start.

Spurred into overdrive by an explosion in the populations of insects they eat, thousands of little spiders in the western Greek town have shrouded coastal trees, bushes and low vegetation in thick webs.

The sticky white lines extend for a few hundred meters (yards) along the shoreline of Aitoliko, built on an artificial island in a salt lagoon near Missolonghi, 250 kilometers (150 miles) west of Athens.

Experts told local media that the numbers of lake flies, a non-biting midge, have rocketed amid humid late summer conditions. Spiders, which fancy the flies, reproduced fast to take full advantage of the feast.

Residents say the extensive spider webs have another benefit: keeping down mosquitoes. ***(AP)***


IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Jose Naputi Acosta
FEBRUARY 16, 1940 – SEPTEMBER 23, 2018
In his new life, he joins:
Parents: †Jesus Ninaisen Acosta and †Veronica Naputi Acosta
Parents-in-law: †Felis Santos Agulto and †Rosa Reyes Agulto
Brothers and sisters: †Francisco N. Acosta (Carmen Acosta), †Antonio N. Acosta, †Soledad A. Blas (Jesus Blas), †Ana A. Crisostomo (Calistro Crisostomo)
Brothers-in-law: †Juan R. Agulto, †Jesus R. Agulto
Grandson: †Caleb T. Acosta
His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: Juana Agulto Acosta
Children and Spouse:
Thelma A. and Allan M. Farley, children and grandchildren
Jesse A. Acosta and children
Veronica A. Acosta and Mark Tyquiengco and children
Valerie R. Sablan and Anthony LG. Cruz and children
Melissa A. Acosta and Ricky Manahane and children
Joseph A. and Aima Acosta
Siblings and in-law:
†Francisco and †Carmen Acosta and family
Dolores and †Manuel Agulto and family
†Soledad and †Jesus Blas and family
†Ana and †Calistro Crisostomo and family
Theresa and †Juan San Augustine and family
Rosa and †Sam Amares and family
†Antonio and Zenaida and family
Margarita and Willy Brown and family
In-laws and spouses:
†Juan and †Pacing Agulto
Francisco and Elizabeth Agulto and family
Dolores Agulto and family
Jacinta R. Agulto
Maria Agulto and family
†Jesus and Esther Agulto and family
Jose Agulto and family
Antonio and Annie Agulto and family
Raymond R. Agulto
Carmen R. Agulto
Felix R. Agulto
Melissa and Jimmy Sablan and family
Zinna Agulto and Gregorio Perez and family
Daily mass of intention is being offered at 6am at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral.
Funeral services will be held on Monday, October 1, 2018. His remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home at 8:00 a.m. and proceed to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso, rosary and viewing will follow upon arrival. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m., followed by Interment Services at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.
Your prayers, thoughts, presence is greatly appreciated
Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Juana A. Acosta & Family

Life & Style

Beer lovers, listen up: New book has some life hacks for you

Beer snobs, turn away, Ben Robinson has some hacks involving your favorite, foamy beverage.

The editor in chief of The Observer has written a handy little every guy's illustrated guide of 100 tips, tricks and projects involving beer.

Heading to Munich for Oktoberfest, or perhaps just out to the ball park? He has the best ways to partake. Oops, forgot that bottle opener. Robinson's got you covered. Want to stash some for later? You can do that under the right conditions.

At 37, the Long Islander has been partaking since his college days, but why write an actual book about the stuff? It has remained a passion, he told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

"I went to college in Wisconsin, which is a place that is very devoted to beer in many ways," he said. "In college is really when I had my first very good beer. There was a brew pub called the Angelic that we would go to. Back then, if you went to a bar with your parents (pre-21) and your parents said it was OK, they would serve you beer."

Some highlights from his "Beer Hacks," otherwise known as how to make yourself a better beer drinker:

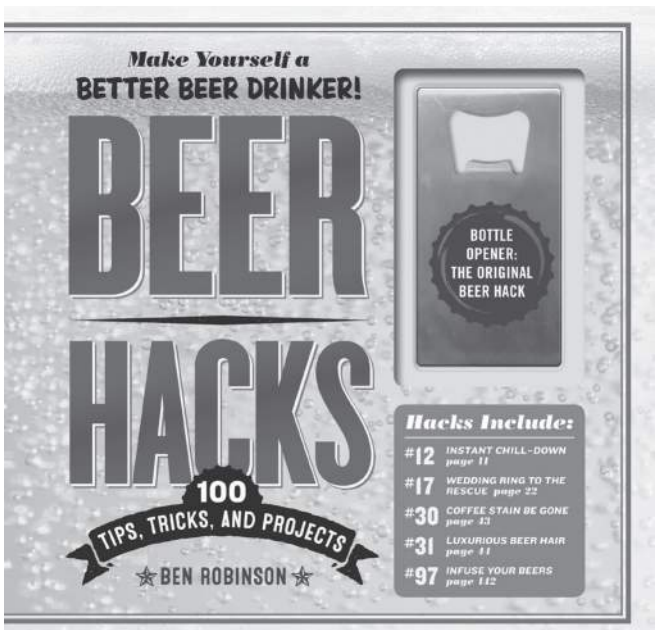
MAKE THEM COLD QUICK

Warm beer. If it's not your thing, it's your nightmare. When you're really, really thirsty and you come home to a beerless fridge, Robinson has some ideas.

Wet a rag, paper towels or a dish towel, ring out the excess and wrap up your brew for a trip into the freezer. On top of an ice tray or in actual ice is even better. A standard 12-ounce can or bottle should take 10 minutes or less to get to an enjoyable temperature.

That's the path of least resistance. You can grab a receptacle, ice and cups and cups of salt for a cold spin. The ETA is about three minutes of spinning. If you're in a really, really big hurry, like 20 to 30 seconds worth, always have a carbon dioxide fire extinguisher handy. Just put the warm beer in a bucket and fire away in quick blasts of one to two seconds. Quickly rinse.

But remember these words:



This cover image released by Workman shows "Beer Hacks: 100 Tips, Tricks, and Projects," by Ben Robinson. The book will be released on Oct. 2. AP

carbon dioxide fire extinguisher. Not a monoammonium phosphate version.

WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE AN OPENER

Find a sturdy disposable lighter and use the end that doesn't make fire as a lever. Do some magic by folding a standard piece of computer paper in half, then again and again until it's thick. Six or seven folds should make it stiff enough to do what you did with the lighter.

There's always the open one beer with another beer trick, using the cap. Robinson begs off when it comes to the teeth method.

STORAGE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE FANCY

It's easy to overspend on high-end fridges. Most of the priciest are for wine, anyway. Robinson said resist. Go on Craigslist for a stand-up freezer and purchase a digital temperature control outlet thermostat for $30 or so. It plugs into any outlet and will regulate the temperature of your new freezer to turn it into a perfect beer fridge instead. Set it to about 45 degrees.

Beer cans and bottles should be stored upright to last as long as possible. The enemies of beer are light, heat and oxygen. Only brown glass and opaque containers such as cans can stop beer from "skunking," meaning when light breaks it down and changes the flavor.

Fluctuations in temperature will skunk beer as well. Consistency is key. When you open it, drink it! Remember that whatever storage place you choose should be kept dark 99 percent of the time. Use your basement, dark garage or the inside of a closet.

Also remember, according to Robinson, that not all styles of beer are cellar-worthy. The exceptionally hoppy are intended to be consumed as fresh as possible. Most beers with ABV (alcohol by volume) below 7.5 percent won't last very nicely long term, he said.

AROUND THE HOUSE

Beer isn't just for getting things dirty. For gold and gold-plated jewelry, drop some into a glass of beer and soak for a bit before polishing. Robinson said "good" beer actually cleans jewelry worse than the very cheap, so bonus.

It's the slight acidity, he said, which also works on greasy, grimy pots. Copper pots especially.

In the garden, know that slugs love beer. Bury a plastic cup or a few around plants that slugs have taken to, with the lips of the cups slightly above ground. Fill three-quarters of the way up with light beer. No, you won't get every single slug to slime on over, drink and fall in, plus it's ethically your choice to decide on their beer deaths.

A hack for the weary: Pick up a bag of hops at a local brewing supply shop or order online. You'll need "leaf" hops, not pellets. Rub liberally on your pillowcases for some help falling asleep.

HOW TO ORDER BEER

At a professional sporting event, Robinson urges purchase of the biggest beer they sell. Your cost per ounce generally declines as the size of the cup goes up.

At beer fests, take advantage of those long lines to pace yourself, plus the beer's probably better than those to be had in the shorter lines. Also, realize that Oktoberfest in Munich actually began in September. ***(AP)***

Bill Cosby behind bars: Appeal looming, lawsuits pending

Their famous client behind bars, Bill Cosby's legal team is readying a long-shot bid to get his sexual assault conviction overturned. They're also fighting civil lawsuits filed by some accusers that threaten to drain his vast fortune.

The 81-year-old Cosby's lawyers gave glimpses of their expected appeal as his April retrial crashed toward a conviction. They were dismayed by Judge Steven O'Neill's weighty decision to let five additional accusers testify and moved for a mistrial when one of the women called Cosby a "serial rapist" from the stand.

Cosby's lawyers again demanded a mistrial when a prosecutor suggested they were wrong to help a star defense witness write a statement outlining how she said Andrea Constand, the woman Cosby was convicted of drugging and molesting, mused about framing a celebrity.

Recently, Cosby's team—namely his wife, Camille—has been lashing out at O'Neill and accusing prosecutors of using illegal evidence.

Just before Cosby was taken away in handcuffs on Tuesday to begin his three-to-10-year prison sentence, his lawyers alleged that prosecutors had played a doctored audio tape for the jury. They argued that the development was enough to keep Cosby out on bail while he appeals, but O'Neill refused.

Still, legal experts say, Cosby faces long odds of winning on appeal.

Appellate courts give trial judges broad discretion to make decisions affecting how a case is tried, and they overturn only a tiny fraction of convictions. Cosby would stand a better chance, experts say, if he could show that O'Neill made serious errors that violated his constitutional rights.

The prosecutors who tried Cosby say they're confident his conviction will stand.

"Bill Cosby is out of options," said veteran Pennsylvania prosecutor Jarrett Ferentino, who wasn't involved in the case. "His only option now is to blame the court system. His attempt to disparage and discredit his victims failed. He has every right to file an appeal. His chances of success are limited."

Cosby, once revered as "America's Dad" for playing wise, caring Dr. Cliff Huxtable on "The Cosby Show," is now known as Inmate No. NN7687. ***(AP)***

AP-NORC/MTV Poll: Young people feel anxious about election

WASHINGTON (AP)—Engaged? Check. Anxious? Check.

With weeks to go until the November midterm elections, more young Americans are interested but, according to a new poll, they're also feeling more anxious about the results.

A poll released Wednesday by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and MTV found that more young people now say they are feeling anxious about the midterms, compared to July. Nearly half of young Americans ages 15 to 34 now say that they are anxious about the midterms, up from 36 percent in the earlier poll.

The increase is most pronounced among young Democrats: 61 percent expressed anxiety compared with 39 percent in July.

Young voters could play a critical role in the elections, which will determine whether Republicans will maintain their full grip on Congress. But the big question is whether they will show up to the polls. Young voters rarely turn out in numbers that match their share of the population, especially in years when a presidential candidate isn't on the ballot.

That's leaving some voters nervous about what to expect. Tia Green, a 33-year-old from Lexington Park, Maryland, said she was worried that the election could inflame an already divided political culture. It's an issue she's especially sensitive to after recently seeing posts from a friend on social media that offended her.

"In the end, I ended up de-friending her without any confrontation or anything. But I was kind of saddened by it," said Green, who described herself as a moderate Democrat. "Her views in general were completely disappointing, upsetting and it is hard to deal."

Anxiety about November's elections also grew among independents: 43 percent now describe themselves as anxious, compared with 31 percent in July. Among Republicans, about one-third say they are anxious about the midterms, roughly the same share that said so this summer.

John Laubacker, 32, of Rockport, New York, said he was "appalled" by the state of politics heading into the midterm elections.

"Political polarization is at an all-time high. Nobody wants to be civil with anybody," he said. "Until they figure out that you have to work together whether you like them or not, they're not going to get anything done."

Laubacker, who identified as a moderate Republican, said he was frustrated by mudslinging by both parties.

"You keep hearing, 'If the Republicans win, the country's doomed. If the Democrats get enough people in, they're going to impeach the president,'" he said. "They're all worried about their own agendas and the agendas of their big-moneyed contributors. Nobody gives a crap about small people anymore."

Though young voters participate in elections at low rates, the poll suggests they are now paying closer attention than they were several months ago.

Roughly two-thirds of those ages 15 to 34 now say they are interested in the elections, compared with about 4 in 10 in July. Interest is highest among young Democrats. Seventy-three percent of young Democrats say they are interested in the elections, up from 50 percent in July. A smaller majority of Republicans—62 percent—say they are interested today, but that's still up dramatically from 31 percent who said so in July.

Young Democrats and Republicans alike say they are more hopeful than they were earlier this year. Over the summer, roughly 4 in 10 in each group said they felt hopeful about the midterms. Now, 58 percent of Democrats and 62 percent of Republicans say they feel that way.

Fewer young Americans overall said that they were feeling overwhelmed ahead of November's elections. Thirty-four percent of those 15 to 34 said they were feeling overwhelmed now, compared with 43 percent earlier this summer.

University of Minnesota awards honorary degree to Prince

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The University of Minnesota has awarded the late rock star Prince an honorary degree to recognize his influence on music and his role in shaping his hometown of Minneapolis.

University President Eric Kaler and Regent Darrin Rosha presented the school's highest honor, the Doctorate of Humane Letters, to Prince's sister, Tyka Nelson, in a ceremony on campus Wednesday evening. The university had been preparing to present it to Prince himself before his death in 2016.

Students from the university's School of Music were joined by guest artists including St. Paul Peterson and Cameron Kinghorn in paying tribute to Prince by performing music associated with his career.

While the event was free, it was booked to capacity ahead of time.

Copy of 'Lady Chatterley' used at obscenity trial for sale

LONDON (AP) — A paperback copy of "Lady Chatterley's Lover" used by the judge in the U.K. obscenity trial of the novel's publisher is expected to sell at auction for up to 15,000 pounds ($20,000), auctioneer Sotheby's said Wednesday.

Penguin Books was prosecuted in 1960 for publishing D.H. Lawrence's book about an affair between a wealthy woman and her husband's gamekeeper, a landmark in the frank literary depiction of sexuality.

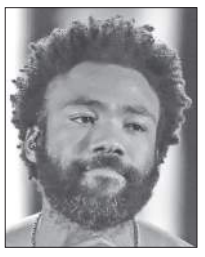
A prosecution lawyer infamously asked in court whether it was "a book that you would ... wish your wife or your servants to read?"

It took jurors just three hours of deliberation to find Penguin not guilty, and the case came to be seen as a landmark victory for freedom of speech and a sign of changing social mores.

The copy being sold by Sotheby's in London on Oct. 30 comes with a damask bag hand-stitched by Dorothy Byrne, the wife of judge Lawrence Byrne, so that press photographers could not snap the judge with the scandalous tome.

It also includes a sheet of paper with Dorothy Byrne's handwritten notes detailing the book's explicit passages, with descriptions—"love making," ''coarse"—and page numbers.

Childish Gambino postpones tour due to injured foot


Gambino

NEW YORK (AP)—Childish Gambino is postponing his tour to recover after he injured his foot.

Live Nation says the performer's "This Is America Tour" will resume on Dec. 2 in Nashville, Tennessee. The tour promoter says tickets for the rescheduled shows will be honored at the new dates.

Gambino, whose real name is Donald Glover, injured his foot during a concert in Dallas on Sunday.

The injury is also forcing Gambino to cancel his appearance at the Austin City Limits Music Festival in October. He will still perform at the Voodoo Music + Arts Experience in New Orleans on Oct. 27.

The Grammy winner's hits include "Redone" and "This Is America."

Belgium's queen mother flies home for health tests

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgium's Royal Palace said that Queen Paola, the mother of King Philippe, is flying home from Italy for health reasons, amid media reports she suffered a stroke during a trip to Venice.

Broadcaster RTBF reported Wednesday that the 81-year-old Italian-born Paola became ill overnight and was to be urgently flown back to Belgium later in the day.

The Royal Palace said in a statement that Paola is returning "to undergo medical tests." It did not provide details about her condition.

Bill Murray gives former agent Michael Ovitz the business

NEW YORK (AP)—The man promoting a book was Michael Ovitz, the former Hollywood super-agent. The man doing most of the talking was Bill Murray.

Ovitz and Murray appeared together Wednesday night at the 92nd Street Y in Manhattan. They have known each other for more than 30 years and their rapport, Ovitz says, was exactly what the hundreds of audience members were witnessing. Murray teased and provoked his one-time representative, who helped him star in such films as "Stripes" and "Ghostbusters." Ovitz, once among the most feared people in Hollywood, was pleased to go along.

Murray

Ovitz has just published his memoir "Who Is Michael Ovitz?" Murray couldn't stop joking about the title. The two shared memories, often differing ones, about how they met and the films they worked on.

ANGEL MUSEUM CLOSING AP

This Sept. 13, 2018, photo shows a sampling of angels at The Angel Museum in Beloit, Wis. The museum's final day will be Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018. Berg and her late husband, who helped start the museum, hold a Guinness World Record, with more than 13,000 angels. Berg said they are closing after 20 years due to insufficient funds, membership, sponsors and volunteers.

Man uses wife's problems at work against her at home

DEAR ABBY: My husband tends to fight dirty, and I don't know how much more I can take. If we argue about some issue between us, he'll say something along the lines of, "This is why you have so much trouble with your colleagues at work." He knows this is a touchy subject, and it upsets me. I have ongoing issues with two work colleagues who give me the silent treatment for months over perceived (but not intentional) slights, and it causes me a lot of social isolation and anguish.

I'm upset that he brings this up when we argue to validate his point of view. Of course, this escalates our fights and eventually he apologizes. However, I know the next disagreement we have he'll resort to similar tactics.

We have tried counseling, but it's tough to fit into our busy schedules, and it never stopped him from resorting to personal attacks of character during our fights. I don't know what to do anymore. I want to forgive him, but I don't see the point since his apologies don't mean anything. Is there anything left for us to try before I throw in the towel?

TOO TIRED TO FIGHT

DEAR TOO TIRED: As I see it, you have two issues to deal with. You have two "colleagues" at work who have ganged up on you and are creating a hostile work environment by giving you the silent treatment. They don't have to love you, but they do have to work cooperatively with you, which they aren't doing. You should report it to human resources or your boss, so it can be dealt with in a professional manner.

As to your husband and what he's been doing on the home front, tell him he has a choice—MAKE the time to work with a counselor and learn to fight fair or you will consult a lawyer about ending the marriage.

DEAR ABBY: I recently became friendly with a couple who lost their 40-year-old son six months ago. We have grown close over the last several months.

The issue is, as they are mourning the passing of their child, they have turned their home into a shrine. There are pictures of him in every room, etc. I know everyone handles grief differently, but this seems excessive, if not a little creepy.

I suggested they see a therapist, which they did, but only a couple of times. Believe it or not, they were told they were on the right track! Do you have any suggestions?

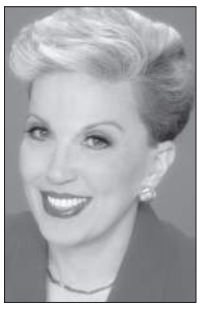
FINDS IT DEPRESSING IN INDIANA

DEAR FINDS: I sure do! Stop judging that couple and expecting them to get over the loss of their child on your timetable. Their therapist has told them they are on the right track, and if you are going to continue to be a supportive friend, you must abandon your preconceptions about how they should deal with their loss. Be supportive. Listen when they need to talk. And when you can, give them positive messages that may lighten their load.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

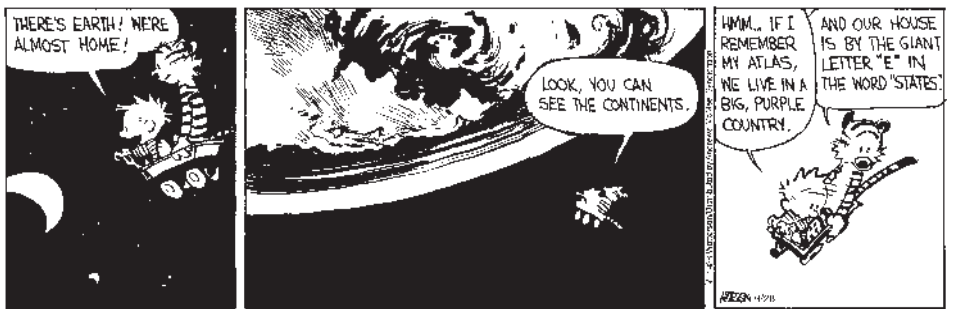


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

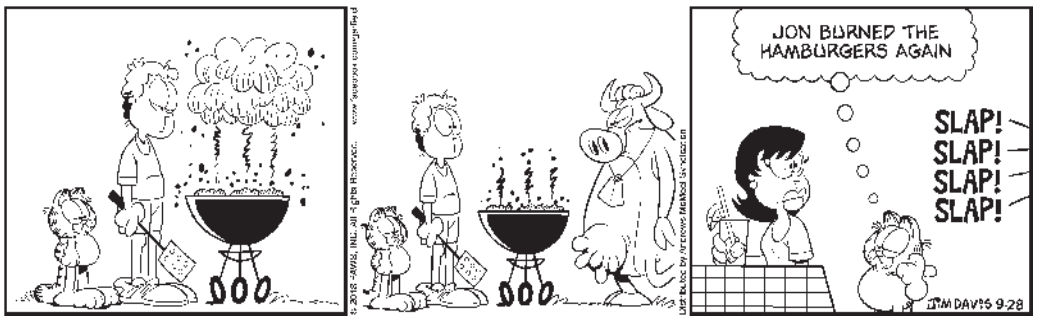
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THERE'S EARTH! WE'RE ALMOST HOME!
LOOK, YOU CAN SEE THE CONTINENTS.
HMM.. IF I REMEMBER MY ATLAS, WE LIVE IN A BIG, PURPLE COUNTRY.
AND OUR HOUSE IS BY THE GIANT LETTER "E" IN THE WORD "STATES."

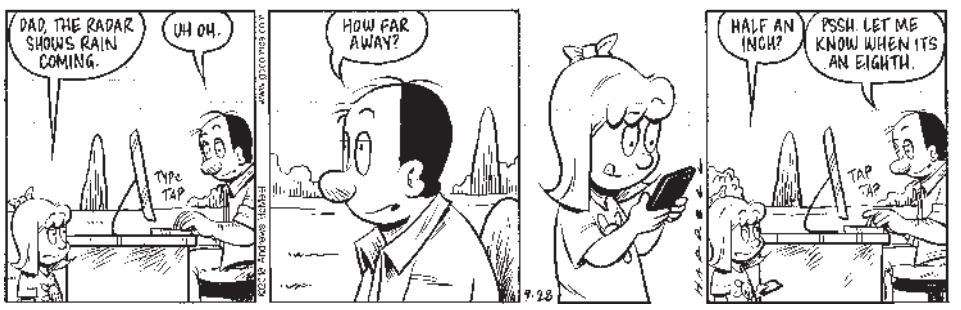
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



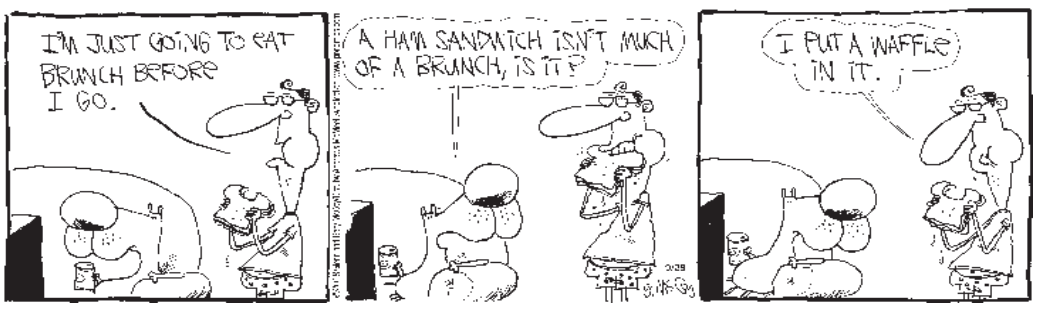
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

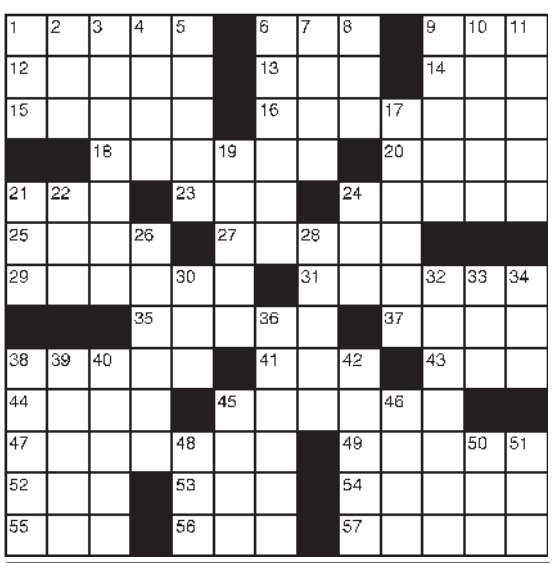
ACROSS
1 Treaties
6 Science room
9 Ga. neighbor
12 Moral principle
13 Conceit
14 Sinbad's bird
15 Blinding light
16 Ben-Hur's vehicle
18 Soprano Scotto
20 Being, to Brutus
21 "Tasty!"
23 Italian "three"
24 Enjoyed
25 Stagger
27 "Peer Gynt Suite" composer
29 Deep blue
31 Big shot
35 Boxer's dream
37 Roe provider
38 Smacks a baseball
41 Vegas opener
43 Bio stat
44 Swiss river
45 Luggage carrier
47 "— begins at home"
49 Governed
52 Filch
53 Scoundrel
54 Crop up
55 Dawn goddess
56 Naval letters
57 Well-versed folks?

DOWN
1 Wooden pin
2 Pac. counterpart
3 Enchanted
4 Ersatz swing
5 Potpourri output
6 "The Silence of the Lambs" role
7 Turkish title
8 Fluffy scarf
9 Pat down
10 Unfettered
11 Played a part
17 Ruling periods
19 Specialized vocabulary
21 Hosp. scan
22 Chaps
24 Zodiac feline
26 Roadside trash
28 "Rumor has it ..."
30 PX patrons
32 Chaplin or Sheen
33 Witch
34 Poem of praise
36 London insurer
38 "— bleu!"
39 "Yippee!"
40 Bedouins
42 Purse part
45 School orgs.
46 Modern money
48 Hosp. area
50 "Guinness Book" suffix
51 — Moines

Solution time: 25 mins.

P	O	M	P		A	M	P		S	D	A	K
J	R	A	L		B	A	R		A	R	T	E
M	E	N	U		O	X	O		L	I	O	N
A	S		M	O	V		P	S	A	I	M	S
			E	Y	E			C	M	L		
D	A	B	S		P	R	O	H	I	B	I	T
J	R				A	A	S			I	S	O
B	I	T	P	A	R	T	S		O	T	T	O
		T	I	N			I	D	S			
S	P	F	F	D	S		F	O	I	B	I	F
N	A	R	C		I	C	I		R	O	U	T
I	S	L	E		B	E	E		I	N	N	O
I	O	W	S		S	O	D		S	E	A	N

Yesterday's answer 9-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hilary Duff, 31; Ranbir Kapoor, 36; Mira Sorvino, 51; Janeane Garofalo, 54.

Happy Birthday: Live in the moment. It's up to you to make the changes that will free you from those who put unfair demands on your time and on you personally. Make wise choices that will encourage you to do for yourself and to live life your way. Purge what you no longer need and relieve pent-up stress. Your numbers are 2, 16, 23, 32, 36, 45, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take a peek at what's going on around you. Being fully aware of a situation will help you ward off any setbacks that might develop. Preparation will help you handle and counter anyone trying to sabotage your plans. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Step up and be counted. Your willingness to deal with change and to make it work for you will set you apart and show others how responsible you are. A partnership can work in your favor if you negotiate the terms fairly. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* A day trip, meeting or getting together with people you find mentally stimulating will lead to all sorts of ideas and plans. Express your thoughts, but don't get involved in something you cannot afford or that appears to be unstable. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You'll grab the attention of someone who has something to offer. Explore the possibility of trying something different. Look for ways to use your skills and knowledge to benefit a cause or a concern you have. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Be careful how you deal with people who can influence your life professionally or personally. Be attentive but also observant. An emotional matter shouldn't be trusted. Gather facts, but don't reveal secrets. Use experience, knowledge and intelligence to avoid trouble. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A change will do you good. Attend an event that will give you something to think about. A reunion or going to a place you used to hang out will spark an interest in something or someone from your past. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* If you don't like something, change it. Don't wait for others to do things for you when it's up to you to look out for your own interests. Feeling trapped or obligated to others will not help you get ahead. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't get angry, get moving. Problems with partnerships will develop if you don't have equality in your relationships. Make sure you show respect for what others have to offer and that you get the same in return. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Consider whether you enjoy what you are doing. Look for ways to put your skills to better use or to find a way to combine something you love to do with the qualifications and attributes you have to offer. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Personal changes at home or work will have an impact on the way you live. Make decisions based on what you know, not what someone tells you. If you act in haste, you'll play into someone's trap. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You aren't a follower by nature, so why start now? Walk away from situations that are too costly, indulgent or risky. Use your intelligence and you can outmaneuver anyone trying to tempt you into something that isn't right for you. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* There is money to be made, and opportunities are within reach. Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. What you gain will be well worth your while. Financial gain, physical improvement and the negotiation of a settlement are favored. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are responsive, perceptive and resourceful. You are dapper and capricious.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8				3			9	
			1				7	
		4		2	7		3	
	6			7	8		1	
	7		4	1			2	
	2		6	8		7		
	8				3			
	9			4				5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

9	2	8	1	6	4	5	7	3
1	7	3	2	5	8	6	4	9
6	5	4	3	9	7	8	1	2
4	3	1	5	7	2	9	8	6
8	6	7	4	3	9	1	2	5
2	9	5	8	1	6	4	3	7
7	8	9	6	2	1	3	5	4
5	1	2	9	4	3	7	6	8
3	4	6	7	8	5	2	9	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

TIPPING AT RESTAURANTS **Solution:** 10 letters

C	H	E	C	K	U	L	S	T	R	E	S	S	E	D
E	M	O	C	N	I	A	T	N	E	C	R	E	P	U
H	S	R	E	D	N	E	T	R	A	B	I	L	L	T
T	O	M	P	N	P	M	D	E	L	I	V	E	R	Y
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Attorney for Petitioner Ruth T. Sablan

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PEDRO PANGELINAN TENORIO, Deceased.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-418-C) NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS) Date: October 25, 2018 Time: 9:00am Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE PEDRO PANGELINAN TENORIO OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Ruth T. Sablan** has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to Probate the Will and for Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Pedro Pangelinan Tenorio, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is **Charity R. Hodson**, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **CHARITY R. HODSON, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.**

Dated this 21st day of September, 2018.

/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

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Cubs, Brewers clinch NL playoff spots

CHICAGO (AP)—Shortly after their playoff spot was assured, the Chicago Cubs beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 7-6 on Albert Almora Jr.'s single with two outs in the 10th inning Wednesday night.

The NL Central-leading Cubs clinched their fourth straight postseason appearance when Milwaukee beat St. Louis. The Brewers, who sealed a playoff slot with their win, are a half-game behind Chicago. One of them will win the NL Central, the other will play in the NL wild-card game.

After Pittsburgh tied it in the ninth on a two-out, two-run double by Starling Marte, the Cubs bounced back to win. Ian Happ led off the 10th with a walk and was replaced by pinch-runner Terrance Gore. Mike Freeman's sacrifice moved up Gore, and he took third on a groundout. Almora singled to left on an 0-2 pitch from Richard Rodriguez (4-3).

Jason Heyward homered and drove in three runs for the Cubs. Javier Baez singled for his NL-leading 111th RBI as the Cubs won after blowing a five-run lead. Star third baseman Kris Bryant didn't play because of a bruised left wrist. Jose Osuna and Corey Dickerson homered for Pittsburgh.

Brandon Kintzler (3-3) got the only batter he faced in the top of the 10th to hit into a double play.

AP

St. Louis Cardinals' Adolis Garcia, right, is tagged out at home by Milwaukee Brewers catcher Erik Kratz during the eighth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2018, in St. Louis.

Brewers 2, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Milwaukee clinched its first playoff spot since 2011 by ensuring at least a spot in the NL wild-card game, helped when a rookie St. Louis pinch-runner fell on his way to the plate.

Jhoulys Chacin pitched five shutout innings and Travis Shaw hit a pair of RBI singles to help the Brewers completed a three-game sweep.

The Cardinals missed a big chance to tie it in the eighth inning. Matt Carpenter walked and was lifted for pinch-runner Adolis Garcia. Jose Martinez then hit a slow roller to third baseman Mike Moustakas, who threw wildly to first. Garcia was waved home but fell halfway to the plate, allowing second baseman Hernan Perez to easily throw him out to end the inning.

Chacin (15-8), who had lost his last three decisions, gave up one run on just one hit over five innings. Xavier Cedeno, Corbin Burnes, Josh Hader and Jeremy Jeffress combined for four shutout innings as the Brewers held the Cardinals to a season-low two hits. Jeffress earned his 13th save in 18 chances.

Rockies 14, Phillies 0

In Denver, Hard-throwing German Marquez started with eight straight strikeouts to match a modern-era big league record, and Colorado routed Philadelphia to take over the NL West lead.

David Dahl homered for the third straight game, and the Rockies went deep four times in all as they extending their winning streak to six.

Colorado moved a half-game ahead of Los Angeles for the division lead.

Marquez (14-10) allowed three hits in seven innings and struck out 11 to set a Rockies record with 221 for the season, seven more than Ubaldo Jimenez's total in 2010.

Diamondbacks 7, Dodgers 2

In Phoenix, A.J. Pollock hit a three-run homer and Arizona dropped Los Angeles to second place in the NL West.

The Dodgers' second loss in a row put them a half-game behind Colorado.

Arizona chased Ross Stripling (8-6) with three runs in the second inning and Pollock hit his three-run homer in the fifth for a 6-2 lead.

Zack Greinke (15-11) overcame a shaky start to allow two runs and strike out six in six innings.

Athletics 9, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Matt Olson hit a grand slam that capped a six-run fifth inning, Khris Davis added his major league-leading 47th home run and Oakland closed in on the New York Yankees for home-field advantage in next week's AL wild-card game.

Oakland (96-63) improved to a big league-best 41-21 since the All-Star break and trails the Yankees (97-61) by 1½ games. New York holds the tiebreaker to host the Oct. 3 game; the wild-card winner advances to the Division Series against AL East champion Boston.

Rays 8, Yankees 7

In St. Petersburg, Masahiro Tanaka gave up four runs and six hits over four-plus innings in his final start before the playoffs in New York's loss to Tampa Bay.

New York started play with a 2 1/2-game lead over Oakland to host the AL wild-card game and has the tiebreaker. The Athletics played at Seattle later Wednesday night. Yankees manager Aaron Boone hasn't decided if Tanaka, JA Happ or Luis Severino will start against Oakland.

Red Sox 19, Orioles 3, 1st Game
Orioles 10, Red Sox 3, 2nd Game

In Boston, the Red Sox's Chris Sale struck out eight over 4 2/3 innings in his final tuneup for an expected start in the AL Division Series opener before Baltimore salvaged a split of the day-night doubleheader.

In the opener, Boston handed the Orioles a franchise-record 112th loss. A major league-best 107-52, Boston opens the Division Series at home Oct. 5 against the New York Yankees or Oakland.

Sale left after giving up Adam Jones' go-ahead, RBI double that made it 3-2 in the fifth. He threw 92 pitches, allowing three runs and four hits.

Nationals 9, Marlins 3, 7 innings

In Washington, Bryce Harper was 0 for 4 with two strikeouts in the rain-shortened game that many expect was his last at Nationals Park as a Washington player.

Harper can become a free agent at season's end. The storm arrived as Harper stood in the on-deck circle while the last out of the seventh was recorded.

Nationals rookie Victor Robles had a career-high four hits, including a three-run homer and a two-run double, and also stole a base. Brian Anderson homered for the Marlins.

Angels 3, Rangers 2

In Anaheim, Shohei Ohtani hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning, sending the Los Angeles Angels to a three-game sweep.

Ohtani had an early RBI single before he connected off Texas reliever Chris Martin (1-5), his former teammate in Japan with the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters. The two-way rookie went the opposite way for his 22nd homer of the season, bouncing it off the top of the left-field wall.

Ohtani has driven in runs in three consecutive games and has 59 RBIs in his rookie season.

Blue Jays 3, Astros 1

In Toronto, the Blue Jays gave outgoing manager John Gibbons a winning home sendoff against celebrating Houston.

Before the game, Toronto general manager Ross Atkins announced that Gibbons will not return next season. After getting the final out, closer Ken Giles gave the ball to Gibbons and the crowd rose for a standing ovation.

The World Series champion Astros clinched the AL West title when Oakland lost in extra innings at Seattle well past midnight Tuesday. Several of the Astros partied at a hotel meeting room, but they held a more traditional clubhouse celebration despite the loss. Houston will open the best-of-five Division Series matchup against Cleveland at home on Oct. 5.

Mets 3, Braves 0

In New York, Jacob deGrom was dominant in what likely was his final pitch for the NL Cy Young Award, throwing eight stellar innings for New York and leaving with a major league-best 1.70 ERA.

DeGrom (10-9) made his final regular-season start, striking out 10 and allowing just two singles against NL East champion Atlanta. He retired the final 20 hitters after allowing a single to Johan Camargo. DeGrom gave up no more than three runs in his last 29 starts to extend his own single-season record. The All-Star ace also matched the overall mark set by Jake Arrieta in 2015-16.

Indians 10, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Shane Bieber remained perfect on the road with six scoreless innings, Francisco Lindor led off the game with a home run and Cleveland beat up Chicago.

Bieber (11-5) improved to 7-0 on the road, setting a single-season record with most road wins without a loss by a Cleveland pitcher. The 23-year-old rookie has yet to lose a road game in 11 career starts.

Edwin Encarnacion was 3 for 4 with a three-run homer and drove in four runs for the AL Central champs.

Royals 6, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, rookie Heath Fillmyer struck out a career-high nine, Adalberto Mondesi tripled, stole two bases and scored twice, and Kansas City beat Cincinnati to wrap up its road schedule.

Whit Merrifield, who went into the game tied for the American League lead in hits and leading in stolen bases, extended his season-high hitting streak to 16 games with a third-inning single. He also stole two bases. Alex Gordon tacked on a solo home run.

Twins 11, Tigers 4

In Minneapolis, Johnny Field homered twice, Jorge Polanco hit a bases-loaded triple and Minnesota beat Detroit.

Tyler Austin also homered and Willians Astudillo had three hits for the Twins. Christin Stewart tripled and drove in two runs for the Tigers.

Tyler Duffey (2-2) earned the win with two scoreless innings of relief. Detroit starter Matthew Boyd (9-13) gave up six runs in 3 2/3 innings.

American stars seek European success in the Ryder Cup

SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES, France (AP)—The American team at the Ryder Cup is one of the strongest ever.

It features nine players who have combined to win 31 major championships, nearly half of those by Tiger Woods, who signaled his return last week by winning the Tour Championship. It has Dustin Johnson, who is back at No. 1 in the world. One of only three Ryder Cup rookies on the team is Justin Thomas, who already has won a major and reached No. 1 in the world.

Europe?

That's the team that usually wins the Ryder Cup, especially at home.

These are not "mops" on the European team, the word Thomas Bjorn used to describe two of his captain's picks.

Europe has five major champions, four players among the top 10 in the world. It can make a case as one of the best teams since the days of the "Big Five" in the late 1980s when Seve Ballesteros, Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer, Ian Woosnam and Sandy Lyle began this run of European dominance.

But it's not about what they achieved before getting to the Ryder Cup.

It's about who they become playing under a flag, for a tour, and playing for each other.

"I think that the strength of Europe has been we all get behind one another, and even whatever differences we may have, we put them to the side for this week and we're a cohesive unit," Rory McIlroy said Tuesday. "And that's the way we try to be."

These are two of the strongest teams, the first time the Ryder Cup has ever featured all 10 players from the world ranking.

That only raises the anticipation when the matches start Friday on the first tee at Le Golf National before a grandstand that has just under 7,000 seats. Adding to the plot is that the Americans are defending champions for only the third time since 2002.

Ultimately, the Ryder Cup is decided by who keeps the ball in play, especially with the thick rough at Le Golf National, and who makes putts. Europe, however, has a spirit about it that has allowed for a spotless record at home the last 25 years.

Webb Simpson is playing his third Ryder Cup and already has seen 23 players from Europe on those three teams.

But it's not about names.

"I think they are strong every year in the Ryder Cup no matter who is on the team, or what form they are in," Simpson said. "They have a great team, obviously. They get the Ryder Cup well. You know, 2016 was a great example of how we're getting the Ryder Cup ... we're getting a lot better."

The Americans showed that at Hazeltine, the first year after the Ryder Cup Task Force intended to build a model of continuity. It's the European way, and the U.S. can only hope it will end 25 years of losing the Ryder Cup away from home.

It helps that so many of their young players are friends outside the Ryder Cup, even outside golf. Thomas and Jordan Spieth have been close since they were 14 and picked to represent the U.S. at the Evian Junior Masters—in France, no less. Thomas and Rickie Fowler are neighbors in Florida. Brooks Koepka spent the Saturday night before his first U.S. Open victory on the phone with Dustin Johnson (it wasn't a long conversation).

AP

Jordan Spieth of the US, Patrick Reed, Tiger Woods and Justin Thomas, from left, walk to the 18th green during a practice round for the Ryder Cup at Le Golf National in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, outside Paris, France, Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2018.

"The American team has become a little more cohesive in the last few years, and I think that's to do with the younger guys coming on board and really embracing the Ryder Cup and making it a very important part of their careers," McIlroy said. "You've seen Jordan and Rickie and J.T. and those guys. They hang out together. They spend a lot of time together, and it seems like the togetherness is just a little bit more than maybe it used to be back in the '90s and early 2000s."

Come Friday, it's about making putts and winning the 18th hole, something Woods believes has held the U.S. back, especially overseas.

Europe still likes to play the underdog role, even having won eight of the last 11 times in the Ryder Cup. It has reason to feel like one in France with such a loaded lineup the Americans offer. Then again, it was like that in 1997 at Valderrama when the Americans had five major champions and eight players among the top 15. Europe had two of the top 15 in the world — Faldo and Colin Montgomerie. Europe won.

Butler wants to join Miami Heat now

MIAMI—When Jimmy Butler met with Tom Thibodeau last Tuesday and formally requested a trade away from the Minnesota Timberwolves, the first round of reporting indicated that the four-time All-Star swingman had three preferred destinations: the Los Angeles Clippers, the Brooklyn Nets and the New York Knicks. Now, eight days later, with the Wolves opening up training camp without Butler— or, more accurately, with Butler still in the building but playing with a decidedly different crew—Butler has reportedly shifted his sights down to South Florida.

From a player/culture perspective, Butler seems like an absolutely perfect fit in Miami. Ever since Pat Riley took the reins in South Beach all the way back in 1995, he's looked to fashion the Heat into a team built on defense, aggression, physicality, conditioning and a hard-work-over-everything ethos. That's precisely the sort of approach that's helped Butler go from a junior college product to a four-time All-Star … and, from the sound of things, perhaps precisely what helped drive a wedge between the relentlessly hard-charging Butler and the Wolves' young core tandem of Karl-Anthony Towns and Andrew Wiggins.

Years after Riley moved upstairs as the team's president, coach Erik Spoelstra has continued to emphasize those first principles, fostering an environment that can turn fringe players willing to dig in and grind into real contributors, and that can elevate legitimate talents who've struggled in other settings to buy into the team concept or get into good enough shape to provide consistent maximum effort. That's helped keep Miami competitive and respectable even after the demise of the Big Three era, with the Heat finishing .500 or better in three of the last four seasons, with playoff appearances in 2016 and 2018.

But "competitive and respectable" isn't what Pat Riley wakes up in the morning thinking about. A couple of years of somewhat curious summertime decisions — maxing out Hassan Whiteside, matching Brooklyn's $50 million offer sheet for Tyler Johnson, signing Kelly Olynyk, Dion Waiters and James Johnson to long-term deals —have left Miami in the kind of middle ground that can be the death knell for NBA franchises with big dreams: good enough to contend for a playoff spot, but not good enough to make any serious noise, even in the league's lesser conference.

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At 39, Drew Brees isn't slowing down

METAIRIE, La. (AP) — If Drew Brees maintains his recent form through the bulk of this season, the record-setting Saints quarterback could wind up having one of his best years yet at the age of 39.

Brees' completion rate is 80.6 percent through the first three games—high even by his standard.

But is it sustainable?

"I don't see why not," Brees said. "I mean, listen, it's not easy."

No, he's just made it look that way.

Brees began the season 78 completions behind Brett Favre's record of 6,300 and needed barely more than two games to set a new mark — now 6,326 and counting. Brees has completed 104 of 129 passes for 1,078 yards and eight TDs with no interceptions.

This after he set the NFL record last season for completion rate at 72 percent.

And he'll likely break Peyton Manning's record of 71,940 yards passing within two more games. He's 417 yards away from that mark.

While Brees is pleased by his statistical production, he said he measures his performance more by the quality of his decisions.

"I've always had a goal that I want to continue to get better each and every year. Sometimes you can't always measure that," Brees said, offering the example of how throwing the ball away shows up as an incompletion, but is markedly preferable to taking a sack or committing a turnover.

"There's certain things stats don't always show as to your true production," Brees said. "I want to build confidence with my offense. I want to be in control of the huddle. I want to lead the huddle. I want to make those guys believe and get the best out of them.

"And I want to make great decisions when I have to opportunity—and then produce. So as long as I'm able to do those things, that's what drives me."

The bulk of Brees' passes have gone to receiver Michael Thomas and to running back Alvin Kamara. It's hard to argue with that decision-making. Both have made a number of clutch plays in New Orleans' two victories, and even in their 48-40 loss to Tampa Bay—blame for which could hardly be pinned on New Orleans' offense.

Thomas has 38 catches—the most by an NFL player through the first three games of a season. He also has 398 yards and three TDs receiving.

In discussing his high completion rate, Brees said Thomas has been a "huge" factor.

"He's a great target. He's a great matchup," Brees said. "It's good to have the weapons that we have on offense. More so than that, it's good that everybody has the mindset that they have, and that is that at any time, their number could be called."

Kamara has caught 30 passes for 298 yards and one TD receiving. He often catches the ball out of the backfield.

AP

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees goes over the top for the winning touchdown in overtime to beat the Atlanta Falcons, 43-37, in an NFL football game, on Sunday, Sept 23, 2018, in Atlanta.

While such throws tend to yield modest gains and are often considered "check-down" throws—safer, easier alternatives to throwing downfield—Brees is unapologetic.

"It's about identifying matchups. It's making sure that you get positive plays," Brees said. "In just about every case, a completion is a positive play, right? So maybe that's the difference between you being third-and-7 and third-and-4. And when you look at the percentages of conversion (on third-and-short vs. third-and-long), then that's a big deal."

Saints players have long raved about Brees' work ethic, adherence to routine, command of the game plan, knack for reading defenses and ability to make wise decisions.

But his aging body still has to be able to make throws under pressure and even scramble once in a while, as he did for a 7-yard touchdown in a victory at Atlanta last Sunday.

Saints receiver Austin Carr, who worked out with Brees last summer, said the quarterback's routine "is serious."

MCS

From Page 32

won another closely fought match, 25-23. Mt. Carmel went on to complete the come-from-behind victory after escaping with a 15-13 triumph in the deciding third set.

The win over GCA gave Mt. Carmel a sweep in its pair of matches yesterday. The Lady Knights earlier dueled the winless Agape Christian School and prevailed in all three sets of the one-sided match. MCS eased its way to a 25-8 victory in the first set and then got the outright win in the pairing after dominating Agape anew in the second, 25-5. Despite securing the victory early, the Lady Knights were still at it, beating Agape in the third set, 15-12.

In other results yesterday, Kagman High School pulled off an upset over Saipan International School.

Kagman eked out a 27-25 win in the extended first set, while SIS fought back in the second with another close victory, 25-23. For the deciding third set, the Lady Ayuyus outclassed the Geckos, 15-7.

SIS bowed to Kagman after playing three matches last Tuesday. The Lady Geckos split their two games against Saipan Southern High School early this week with both matches won in three sets. Then in its third straight game of the night, SIS also needed three sets to beat Agape, which stunned its foe in the opener, 25-21. The Lady Geckos then averted Agape's bid for a sweep after taking the second set, 25-21, and closed out the long night with a 15-6 victory in the third set.

Meanwhile, four more playing days (Oct. 2, 4, 9, and 11) are left in the regular season of the girls volleyball competition, while the double-elimination championship round will take place on Oct. 12 and 13.

NMIFA

From Page 32

team and officials, but also for the guests and spectators that will watch the games," Zapanta said.

"Hosting the Marianas Cup at the training center for the first time will also give us the opportunity to learn and experience how to hold a big event and we hope to do it right, as we will host more teams in the future," the NMIFA official added.

The Marianas Cup will feature two matches. The CNMI and Guam's U19 women's national teams will play in the first game at 4pm, while in the second tiff at 7pm, the islands' U17 men's nationals squads will be on center stage.

The host teams are busy preparing for the Marianas Cup with more than 24 players from each group attending the training and hoping to make the final cut. Only 18 players will be included in the official roster of each squad. NMIFA technical director and head coach Michiteru Mita will call the shots for the CNMI U17 men's crew, while Olympian Luem Khen Koo will coach the women's team.

MJD

From Page 32

MJD debuted against Kanoa Krushers and coasted to a 92-44 win, while Pacific Postal Plus, which fell to Armatech in last Sunday's opener, was pitted against Imperial Pacific in the second match and prevailed, 58-51. Imperial Pacific absorbed its second straight loss in as many games, as it also bowed to Pacific Islands Club Saipan last weekend.

Ryan Odicta helped Pacific Postal make it to the win column after scoring a team-high 16 points. Jon Broncano also finished in double figures for Pacific Postal, adding 12.

Pacific Postal held Imperial Pacific to single-digit scoring in the first quarter to take a 14-9 lead and never relinquished the upper hand, as Odicta and Broncano's teammates also contributed to the squad's cause.

In the first game, the opening quarter was close with MJD ahead by only a deuce, 18-16, but the winning squad began controlling the match in the second canto en route to the lopsided victory.

Jun Tabora, Jack Aranda, and Jaymar De Guzman led the second-period breakaway, as they combined for 23 points to hand MJD a 45-29 halftime edge. De Guzman tallied MJD's last 9 points in the pivotal second frame and finished the half with 12. The former Saipan Southern High School standout ended up with a game-high 20 markers.

Jorge De Guzman and Aranda chipped in 22 more markers for MJD, which draw 8 points each from Tabora, Cecilio Bisana, and Ben Lisua. Ramsa Tenepere was the lone double-figure scorer for the hapless Kanoa after logging 13.

First Game

MJD Warriors 92 — Ja. De Guzman 20, Jo. De Guzman 12, Aranda 10, Usi 9, Bisana 8, Lisua 8, Tabora 8, Dayrit 6, Sampang 2, Mungcal 2.

Kanoa Krushers 44 — Tenepere 13, Lumauag 6, Pablo 6, Quintip 4, Sedillo 4, Belgado 4, Bata 2, Fejeran 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-16, 45-29, 69-35, 92-44.

Second Game

Pacific Postal Plus 58 — Odicta 16, Broncano 12, Agbanlog 6, Usi 5, Ordus 4, Vallo 4, Pineda 2, Mortos 2, Bonto 1.

Imperial Pacific 51 — Makabenta 21, Cruzada 9, Odvina 7, Peladra 5, Bornales 3, Ambe 3, Mabunga 3.

Scoring by quarters: 14-9, 28-20, 41-33, 58-51.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	107	52	.673	—
y-New York	97	61	.614	9½
Tampa Bay	88	70	.557	18½
Toronto	72	87	.453	35
Baltimore	46	112	.291	60½

Central Division

x-Cleveland	89	69	.563	—
Minnesota	73	84	.465	15½
Detroit	64	94	.405	25
Chicago	62	96	.392	27
Kansas City	56	102	.354	33

West Division

x-Houston	100	58	.633	—
y-Oakland	95	63	.601	5
Seattle	86	71	.548	13½
Los Angeles	78	81	.491	22½
Texas	66	92	.418	34

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Atlanta	89	69	.563	—
Washington	81	78	.509	8½
Philadelphia	78	80	.494	11
New York	74	84	.468	15
Miami	62	96	.392	27

Central Division

z-Chicago	92	66	.582	—
z-Milwaukee	92	67	.579	½
St. Louis	87	72	.547	5½
Pittsburgh	80	77	.510	11½
Cincinnati	66	93	.415	26½

West Division

Colorado	88	70	.557	—
Los Angeles	88	71	.553	½
Arizona	81	78	.509	7½
San Francisco	73	86	.459	15½
San Diego	64	95	.403	24½

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tan, Yang top Geckos 5000

The Geckos 5000 took place last Wednesday in Marpi with Saipan International School's Tania Tan and Agape Christian School's Kobe Yang leading the finishers of the inaugural race.

Yang was the first placer overall in the 5-kilometer cross country run after rounding out the course in 22:37. Tan, on the other hand, was the first female to complete the race that started and ended at Banzai Cliff (with runners navigating through the boonies) after timing in at 23:45.

Yang led Agape's 1-2-3 finish in the individual race, as Peter Wang came in at second after registering 23:08 and Jonathan Xiong notched the third place honors with his 23:09. Three other Agape runners made it to the Top 10 to give the Torchbearers the No. 1 rankings in the team event. Tony Zhang was at sixth place in the men's division after checking in at 24:02, while Jeremiah Yuan finished fifth with his 23:55, and Arthur Liang took the No. 6 spot following his 25:37 time.

LINDSAY NASH
Saipan International School headmaster Ron Snyder, standing sixth left, poses with SIS runners at the completion of the race.

In other results, Ken Song was the best finisher for Marianas High School as his 23:04 gave him the No. 4 ranking in the men's division. Oldie Roligat, Brad Tisa, and Alan Albert were the other MHS runners who competed the race and posted 25:48, 276:06, and 26:57, respectively.

As for SIS, Je Hyuk Jung recorded the fastest time in their group after crossing the finish line at the 26:02 mark (No. 9 in the men's). He was followed by Kaden Church (27:32), Dylan Mister (26:29), Jewon Jung (28:50), Kuu Nishimura (26:16), and Michael Lee (42:05).

In the women's division, SIS' Anika Snyder joined Tan in the podium after logging the third-best time (24:59) in the group. Marianas High School's Therize Millare was second in the division after posting 24:58.

Jerlyn Castillo, also from MHS, was ranked fourth after timing in at 25:48, while Leani Acosta was the third Lady Dolphin to participate in the race and clocked in at 37:41.

SIS had four other runners besides Tan and Snyder. Stella McCallion, Malika Miyawaki, and Dana Lee registered 26:35, 27:58, and 28:51, respectively, for the No. 5 to 7 finish, while Lucy Devey came in at No. 13 after recording 35:33.

Agape, on the other hand, fielded five runners in the women's race with Elizabeth Xu leading the way for their team after timing in at 30:19 (No. 8 in the division). Other Agape students who rounded out the course were Amelia Yu (32:36), Vivian Wu (31:37), Iris Zhang 934:43), and Jenny Lin (31:37).

SIS hosted Geckos 5000, which the school plans to do annually, according to headmaster Ron Snyder. Students from SIS Rotary Interact Club and the school senior class helped run the event.

"It was a really hot, tough course, but all of the runners came through amazingly strong. I hope we can get more schools to join us in the future and that some other schools can offer invitationals of their own," Snyder said.

LINDSAY NASH
Agape Christian School students run in Marpi with the Banzai Cliff as backdrop during last Wednesday's Geckos 5000.

LINDSAY NASH
Marianas High School's Jerlyn Castillo leads an Agape Christian School runner on their way out of the boonies at the Banzai Cliff.

LINDSAY NASH
Saipan International School's Tania Tan negotiates a trail along the 5-kilometer course.

Destroyers vs Wild Boyz in finals

The Tuesday League of the Saipan Billiards Association 8-Ball Budweiser Cup is down to two teams.

Left standing after the first two rounds of games are IT&E Amari Destroyers and 9 Eleven Wildboys. IT&E Amari Destroyers won their first game last Sept. 16 after ousting Marianas Water, 9-6, and then secured a finals berth in the division after beating regular season champion Docomo Hustlers last Tuesday, 9-4. The Hustlers, before bowing to the Destroyers, advanced to the semifinals following a 9-6 triumph over the 911 Str8 Black Ball.

The Wildboyz, on the other hand, made it to the title game set for Oct. 2 after dominating Brannon's 670 Builders in the semifinals, 9-2. The Wildboys earlier ousted Amari's Masters Touch, 9-7, to march into the Final Four, while Brannon's 670 Builders drew a bye in the first round to automatically move into the semis.

Meanwhile, the Thursday League played its semifinal round last night.

Brannon's Jam Shooters, 911 8 Black Ball, Sand Team SCS, and Amari's Intensity 5 were the semifinalists after knocking out their respective opponents last Sept 20.

Brannon's Jam Shooters earned a Final Four berth following a 9-4 triumph over 911 MJD Warriors and the former were scheduled to face 8 Black Ball in the semis. 8 Black Ball posted a 9-5 win over IT&E Amari's Homeboyz to remain in contention for the Bud Cup title.

In other results, Sands Team SCS and Amari's Intensity eliminated 911 Titans, 9-8, and VFW Assasins, 9-7, respectively, to arrange their semis duel. Winner of the pair of Final Four games last night will battle for the division crown on Oct. 4. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOYO
Sands Team SCS members are all smiles after advancing to the semis of the SBA Bud Cup Thursday League last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Some players of 9 Eleven Wildboys stay after the game for a group photo following their semis win over Brannon's 670 Builders in the SBA Bud Cup Tuesday League this week.

Cubs, Brewers clinch NL playoff spots

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

American stars seek European success in the Ryder Cup

PAGE 29

NMIFA preps up for Marianas Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Soccer fans will once again witness the age-old rivalry between the CNMI and Guam, as the two islands collide in the 2018 Marianas Cup on Oct. 7 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

"We are excited to host the Marianas Cup and are inviting all soccer fans to come to the pitch and support the teams that will be playing in next month's event," Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ross Zapanta told *Saipan Tribune*.

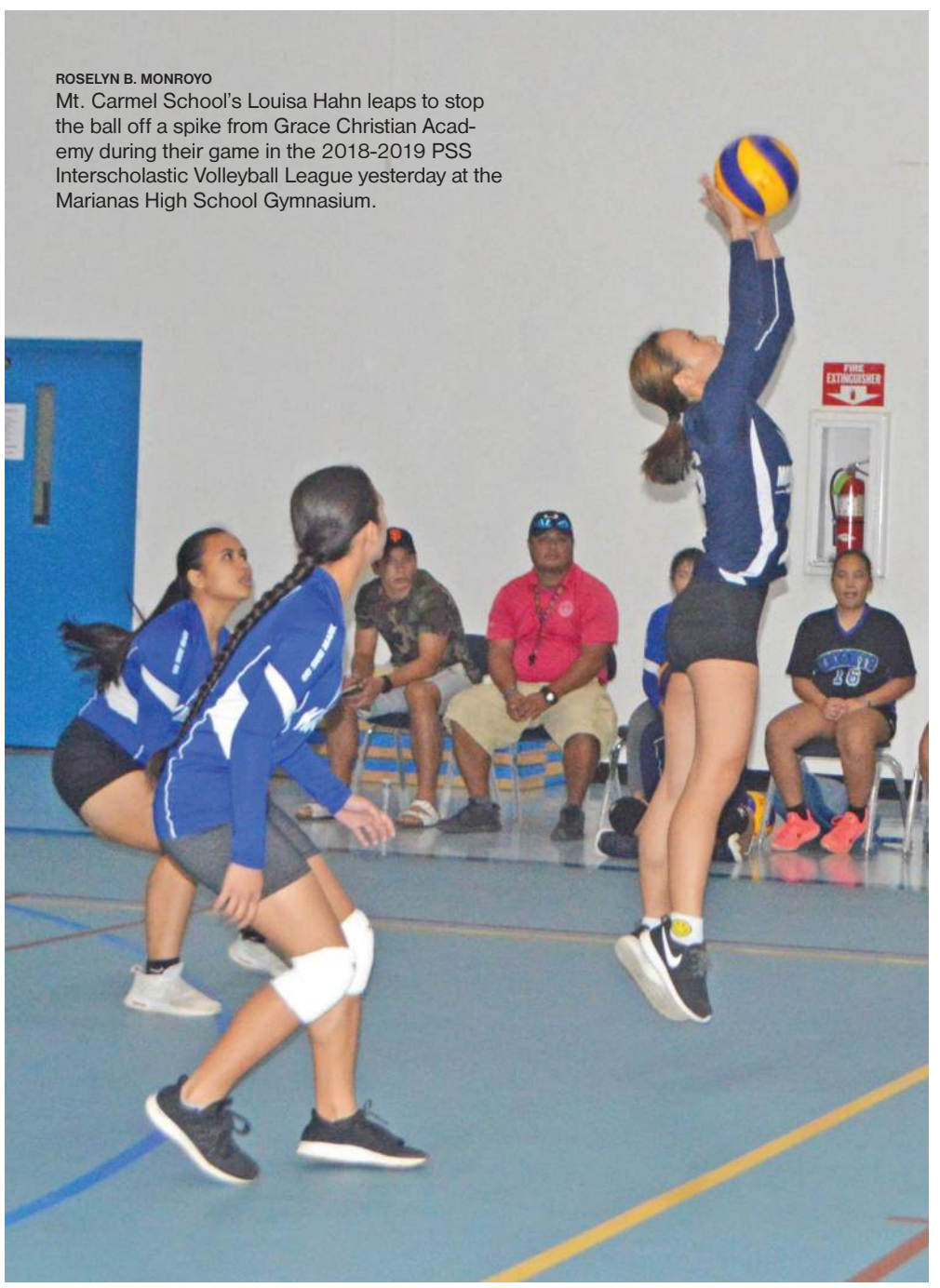
NMIFA has hosted the Marianas Cup in the past, but this year's edition is extra special, as it will be the first time that the CNMI and Guam will be playing at the training center, which was just inaugurated in July this year.

"We are excited and at the same time pressured because expectations are high since we will be hosting the Marianas Cup for the first time in our training center. This is the first time that we will be hosting an off-island team in our pitch and we would like to get things in order to have a successful Marianas Cup not only for the visiting

See NMIFA on Page 30

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI players in action during an exhibition game at the NMI Soccer Training Center, which will host the 2018 Marianas Cup on Oct. 7.

MCS ends GCA's streak



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mt. Carmel School's Louisa Hahn leaps to stop the ball off a spike from Grace Christian Academy during their game in the 2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School handed Grace Christian Academy its first loss in the 2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League after surviving a three-set thriller yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Knights rallied from an opening set defeat to ground the Lady Eagles and snap the latter's six-game winning streak. GCA moved a set away from extending its run after posting a 25-20 victory in the opener that was delayed due to a power outage. The match was halted with the Lady Eagles ahead, 23-16, and when the game resumed, GCA managed to withstand MCS' late push to take the first set.

Then in the second set, the Lady Knights regrouped and

See MCS on Page 30

MJD pounds Kanoa; Pacific Postal wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Postal Plus battled back from its opening day loss, while MJD Warriors won its season debut in the IT&E Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 Mixed Masters Brotherhood Basketball League last Wednesday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

See MJD on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Pacific Postal Plus players sandwich Armatech's Alex Lauron during the rebound play in the first game in the IT&E Emon Lodge caging last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.